

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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New maps of tsunami hazards for Alaska coastal communities

(Fairbanks, AK) – Six Alaska coastal communities have new maps that will help them prepare for tsunamis in the event of a large earthquake.

In collaboration with University of Alaska Fairbanks geoscientists, the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) has published a series of reports that describe potential inundation from tsunami waves for Yakutat, King Cove, Cold Bay, Chignik, Chignik Lagoon and Nikolski. The report authors combined historical observations and computer simulations to model potential earthquakes and the resulting tsunamis. They then used these results to map the extent and depth of modeled tsunami floodwaters on land. The maps are being used by community planners, emergency managers and residents to develop action plans for when a tsunami threatens.

Tsunamis are a real danger for many coastal communities in Alaska, and depending on the location of an earthquake a tsunami can reach a community within minutes. Estimating the flooding that may result from a tsunami is an essential component in community planning to reduce the risk of property damage and loss of life.

Reports are available on the DGGS website:

Yakutat – <http://dx.doi.org/10.14509/29577>

King Cove/Cold Bay – <http://dx.doi.org/10.14509/29565>

Chignik/Chignik Lagoon – <http://dx.doi.org/10.14509/29675>

Nikolski – <http://dx.doi.org/10.14509/29674>

For more information about DGGS, visit <http://dggs.alaska.gov>, where you can sign up for RSS feed or email notification or follow DGGS on Twitter or Facebook. For more information about tsunami inundation mapping, visit the interactive application at <http://maps.dggs.alaska.gov/tsunami/>.

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