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## News Release

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### EMERGENCY INFORMATION STATEMENT FROM THE DISTRICT OF SOOKE

**Sooke, BC – February 27, 2010 – 10:30 am**

A large earthquake magnitude 8.8 has occurred off the coast of Chile, South America.

EFFECTIVE 7:00 AM PST, the West Coast Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre has upgraded British Columbia to a TSUNAMI ADVISORY LEVEL. The Tsunami Advisory includes all of coastal British Columbia.

TSUNAMI ADVISORY means that there is a possibility of strong localized currents. No significant flooding is expected, but low-laying coastal areas and beaches are at risk of experiencing strong currents and/or a tidal surge.

This event is predicted to start at approximately 15:00 PST (3:00 PST) at the southern BC coastline.

The Provincial Emergency Program has advised Sooke Fire Chief Steve Sorensen that Coastal BC is under a Tsunami Advisory only at this time. It is not anticipated that any significant wave will hit BC. At the moment, the forecast says it could be as high as 18 inches, however we are also experiencing the lowest tides of the year right now. The wave (if any) is expected at about 3:15 this afternoon in our region. PEP is advising that EOC activation for BC is not necessary at this time and they will forward updates over the day.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Persons should move out of the water, off the beach and out of the harbours and marinas from the arrival time and up to 2 hours afterwards.
2. The District of Sooke will issue updated information as it becomes available. This information and updates will be posted on the District's website at [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca).

This statement is issued at 10:30 am PST.

For more information, contact:

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