

Tsunami Walk Sponsors Businesses & Organizations

This Self-Guided Tsunami Walking Tour
Couldn't Have Happened Without
Generous Support From:

Bicoastal Media, Inc.
College of the Redwoods
City of Crescent City
Cholwell, Benz & Hartwick
Crescent City/Del Norte County
Chamber of Commerce
Crescent City Downtown
Business Improvement District
Crescent City Rotary Club
Darren McElfresh
Del Norte County Office
of Emergency Services
Del Norte Office Supply
Del Norte Sunrise Rotary Club
The Del Norte Triplicate
Gastineau Family Trust
Mary Dorman-State Farm Insurance
Harley & Jill Munger
Lighthouse Repertory Theatre
National Oceanic &
Atmospheric Administration, Eureka
Pacific Power
Recology Del Norte, Inc.
Redwood Coast Tsunami Team
Redwood Mural Society
Rural Human Services
Sutter Coast Hospital
Uncharted Shores Academy

Special thanks for providing photos and research goes to the



Del Norte Historical Society

Visit them at 577 H Street for more on
Tsunamis and Local History!



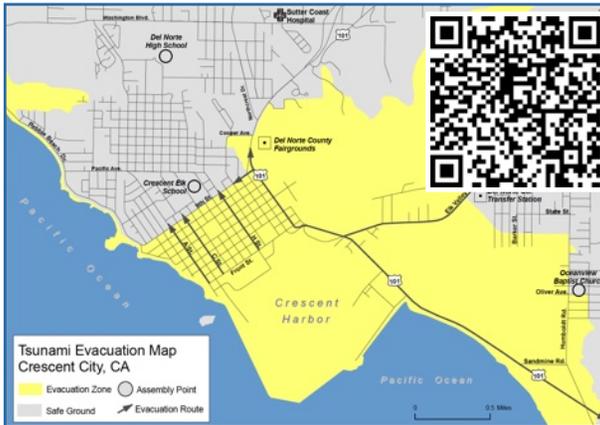
Know Your Zone! Tsunami Evacuation Maps & Information

Since 1933, 32 tsunamis have been observed in Crescent City. Five of those caused damage, and one of them, in March 1964, remains the "largest and most destructive recorded tsunami to ever strike the United States Pacific Coast," according to the University of Southern California's Tsunami Research Center.

This is why it is important to "Know Your Zone," while you are visiting. A tsunami could happen at anytime and most of Downtown Crescent City is in the tsunami run-up zone. If an near-shore earthquake occurred, you would only have minutes to get to safety!

The main "rule of thumb" is when you feel a sizable earthquake, head north for high ground at 9th Street. Leave your car and walk briskly, because many of the roads could be clogged with cars or building debris. Do the same if you hear the tsunami sirens go off! There will be no mistaking when they do. Don't panic and follow the "Tsunami Evacuation Route" signs to safe ground.

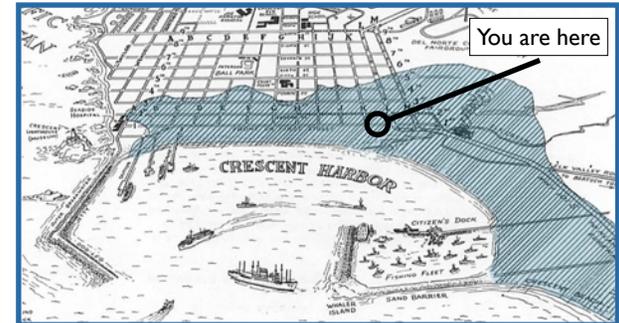
The map below is from a Tsunami Safety brochure that you can download from the Del Norte County Office of Emergency Services website along with other helpful tips for a worry-free stay. Just scan the QR Code in the top right corner to open it up on your smartphone. Be Tsunami Safe and Know Your Zone!



Downtown Business Improvement District's

Tsunami Walking Tour

It started with a 9.2 magnitude earthquake in Alaska that sent tsunami waves surging towards Crescent City. In less than five hours, during the early morning hours of March 28th, 1964, three smaller waves pushed into storefronts and businesses causing little damage and a sense of calm in the people trying to clean up. Then the big wave, cresting at nearly 21 feet, slammed into the Downtown, killing eleven people and devastating 29 city blocks.



This was the worst tsunami disaster recorded in the U.S., causing millions of dollars in damage and shaping what Crescent City's Downtown looks like today. Over 289 buildings and homes were destroyed after being pushed off their foundations or damaged by rising waters, resulting in most of the Downtown being rebuilt.

But many relics and improvements from the 1964 Tsunami remain ready for you to discover on this short historical tsunami walking tour through Downtown Crescent City, also known as "Comeback Town, U.S.A."

You'll see high-water marks posted on buildings that survived the onslaught, huge objects pushed around from the power of the surges and memorials to the people who lost their lives during this tragic event.

Start at the huge, white Jetty Dolos on Front Street and follow the map inside to find the informational kiosks along the way. Scan Quick Read (QR) Codes at each point to get a more immersive experience with interactive audio, video and pictures on your smartphone or internet-connected tablet.

OPEN UP TO BEGIN YOUR WALK INTO HISTORY

1

Jetty Dolos and Tetrapod Front Street, Below J Street

You'll find this behemoth located just east of the Cultural Center on Front Street.

These 40-ton "jacks" were built on-site to bolster the harbor breakwaters. A 25-ton Tetrapod was pushed off its display pad during the '64 Tsunami.

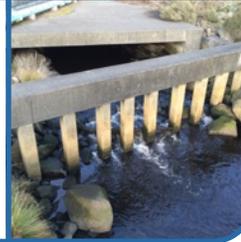


2

Elk Creek Bridge Just East of Dolos on Coastal Trail

Walk southeast on the paved path to the newly built Elk Creek foot bridge.

This is where the worst loss of life happened when five people drowned while receding tsunami waters pulled their boat under the highway trapping them.



3

Tsunami History Kiosk Second & K Streets

Head back west, then north up K Street to Second Street.

You'll learn how the offshore topography makes this area a tsunami magnet that over the years has ravaged both the Downtown and Harbor, which was heavily damaged in 2011.



4

Memorial Fountain Tsunami Plaza



Take a short walk east along what used to be 2nd Street to Tsunami Plaza, one of the new wide-open spaces built after the 1964 tsunami.

This fountain was erected by the citizens of Crescent City as a remembrance to the eleven people who lost their lives. You'll learn the story of how citizens rebuilt their town and will never forget those they lost.

5

Historical Downtown Third & J Streets



Head north through modern Downtown, on what used to be J Street, up to 3rd & J Streets for this kiosk.

Before the 1964 tsunami, Downtown Crescent City was a thriving area of over 250 shops, motels, cafes and bars that catered to fishermen and lumberjacks. Today's views are very different because nearly 29 blocks were wiped away that night by the tsunami.



6

Mural & KPOD Building Second & I Streets

Head east on Third Street and down I Street to see buildings that survived the '64 Tsunami and a mural that immortalizes it.

Bill Stamps broadcast on KPOD radio that night until power was knocked out and he barely escaped with his life.



7

A Tsunami Resistant Town Front Street and J Street

Head south down to Front Street and head east to the kiosk.

The Downtown architecture after the '64 tsunami reflects the ideas for minimizing damage of any future tsunami debris with deflecting sea walls and wide open spaces to slow surges.



8

Beachfront Park Buffer Zone Kids Town, Beachfront Park, Pool

Crossing south across Front Street, take the sidewalk south to the Kids Town entrance across from Fred Endert Municipal Pool.

While rebuilding, tsunami debris was used to fill in the park to raise it 10 feet higher and build the surrounding sea walls 16 feet high.



Coming Soon! - The life-size 1964 Crescent City Tsunami Mural on the east wall of the Cultural Center, which was officially 20.7 feet high!