## What Every Northern Californian Should Know About Tsunamis

Damaging tsunamis are not as rare as you might think. In the past 70 years:

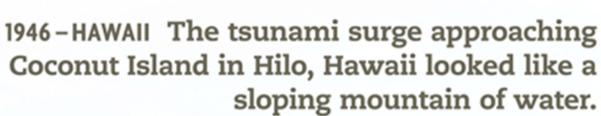
- 44 tsunamis have been recorded on the North Coast
- Five caused damage

## Tsunami Facts

- Tsunamis may look like sloping mountains of water or a river in flood, usually choked with debris.
- A tsunami always consists of many waves or surges spaced minutes to more than an hour apart.
- The first surge is not the largest. The most damaging surges may arrive hours after the first and hazardous waves may arrive for eight hours or longer.







2004-INDONESIA In Banda Aceh the water was choked with debris.





2004-THAILAND When the water rushed in, it looked like a river in flood.

2004-THAILAND In Phuket, the tsunami began as a withdrawal of the ocean water that exposed hundreds of feet of the sea floor.

