

**Santa Cruz County
Amateur Radio
Emergency Service
PRESS RELEASE**



11 March 2011

California Tsunami

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EVENT: ARES Response to the Tsunami after the Japanese Earthquake

WHERE: Central California Coast, Santa Cruz County

WHEN: Friday, March 11, 2011

TIME: Approximately 08:00 AM Pacific Standard Time (PST)

WHAT: Sirens wailed and reverse 911 alerted residents in low lying beach zones of Santa Cruz County today for the impending danger of the Tsunami released as a result of the 8.9 earthquake in Japan.

Early Friday morning the Santa Cruz County A.R.E.S. Team activated the Santa Cruz County Tsunami Resource Net in advance of the anticipated 5 to 7 foot wave. It was expected to reach the Santa Cruz Coast around 8:00 AM.

More than 30 local A.R.E.S. radio operators staffed and manned served agencies including the Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center, Evacuation Centers, The Red Cross, Salvation Army Corp Canteen Truck One, Santa Cruz County Harbor Coast Guard Auxiliary and a number of local Fire Departments.

In addition to the served agencies, a number of hams provided remote observation of the coast line and communications capabilities at the evacuation centers.

As expected, the devastating Tsunami waves impacted the coast and did an estimated 15 million dollars of damage to the Santa Cruz Harbor. More that 100 boats, including fishing vessels, pleasure boats and yachts, were either damaged or sunk as a result of the waves.

Santa Cruz was not alone in receiving significant damage as a result of the powerful waves. Crescent City, located approximately 500 miles North of Santa Cruz, also received heavy damage causing Governor Brown to declare these areas disaster zones. One person died as a result of being swept out to sea with the high waves.

NOTE:

All photographs provide with this release were provided by Craig Smith / W6WL.

Photo One Credit: EOC1

Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. team member Don Taylor K6GHA discussing evacuation center operations with Paul Horvat - Director of Emergency Operations Center.

Photo Two Credit: EOC3

Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. team member Don Taylor K6GHA at the controls in the A.R.E.S. operation center with volunteer operator Vicki Boriack

Photo Three Credit: Santa Cruz Harbor 1

One of the more than 100 vessels which were damaged, destroyed or sunk as a result of the Tsunami wave in the Santa Cruz Harbor.