

Alerting the community to tsunami threat

In response to the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, the Australian Government commissioned the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre (JATWC). Operated by the Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia, JATWC provides warnings to the Australian community within 30 minutes of an undersea earthquake. The emergency operations team at the Western Australian Department of Fire and Emergency Services use these warnings to prepare for and respond to any tsunami threat to Western Australia's coast. If an earthquake were to cause a tsunami the team stands ready to activate their tsunami-response plans.



Deep-ocean tsunami detection buoys are a vital part of the Australian tsunami warning service.

Prior to the tragic events of December 2004 Australia had a very limited tsunami-alert service. Today the JATWC provides comprehensive tsunami-threat information to Australian emergency response agencies and to other National Tsunami Warning Centres since established around the Indian Ocean. This new capability greatly mitigates the danger of tsunamis to coastal communities.



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Australian Government
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