

Prepare with Pedro!

TSUNAMI 



American
Red Cross



Hi! I'm Pedro!
I'm learning how
to prepare for
emergencies.



Prepare means “get ready.”

You get ready for things all the time — like when you put on a jacket and grab an umbrella to get ready for a rainy day.

I want to be ready for any emergency, so I'm learning how to stay safe when emergencies happen.



You can prepare
for emergencies, too!
Just follow me!

Important words to know: TSUNAMI, TSUNAMI WATCH, EVACUATE, GET TO HIGHER GROUND, TSUNAMI WARNING



Pedro went on a trip to visit his friends, Ramona and Jaime. On the way to their house, Pedro noticed a “Tsunami Evacuation Route” sign with arrows pointing up toward a hill.

“What does that sign mean?”

asked Pedro.

“Oh, that tells us where to go if there’s a tsunami,” said Ramona.

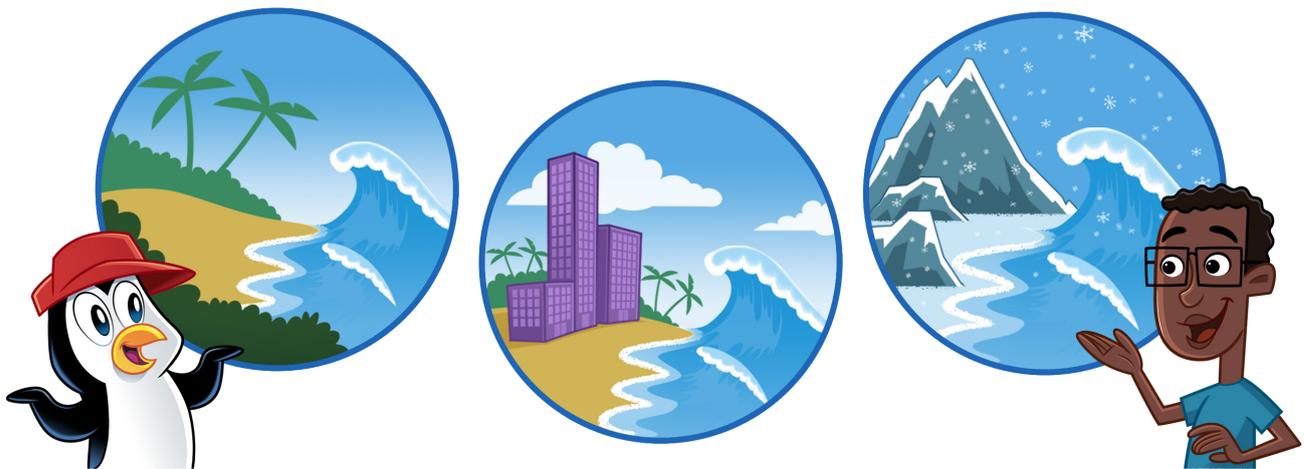
“I’ve never heard of a tsunami before,” said Pedro. “What is it?”





“A **TSUNAMI** is several huge waves that cause ocean water to come onto land,” said Ramona.

“A tsunami can happen if there’s a landslide or earthquake under the ocean,” added Ramona. “A tsunami can strike just a few minutes after an earthquake, or it can show up hours later if the earthquake happens far away.”



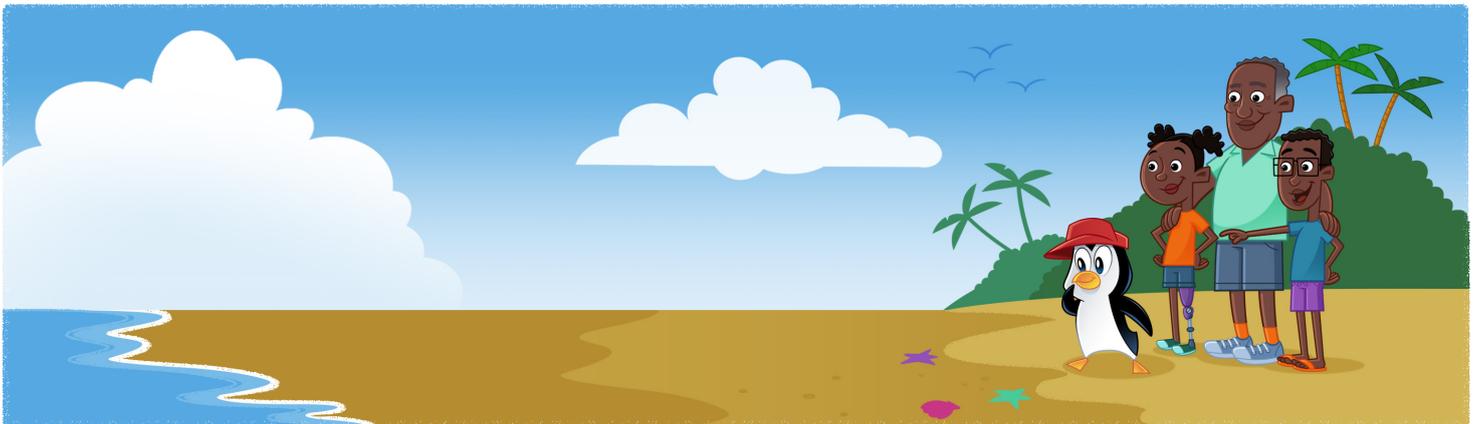
“Do they only happen on warm, sandy beaches like the ones here?” asked Pedro.

“No, tsunamis can happen along any ocean coastline! They can occur along coasts that are cold, too!” said Jaime.



“If we hear a **TSUNAMI WATCH** on the radio, TV, alert on a phone, or from a grown-up, that means a tsunami could be headed our way,” added Jaime.

“What if I’m outside and don’t hear the message?” asked Pedro.



“There are other ways you can tell,” said Jaime. “If you are ever along the shore and suddenly the water moves way back into the ocean away from the shoreline, that’s a sign a tsunami is coming.”



“You also might hear a loud roaring sound and see big waves,” said Ramona.



“Another sign there could be a tsunami is feeling an earthquake when you are close to the ocean,” said Jaime.

“Oh, I know what an earthquake is,” said Pedro. “That’s when the ground starts to shake.”

“That’s right! Once the shaking has stopped, it’s important we take steps to be prepared and stay safe if a tsunami does come our way,” said Ramona.



“We learned how to **BE PREPARED** by practicing how to evacuate for a tsunami. **EVACUATE** means you leave where you are and get to a high spot, where you can be safer from the big waves,” said Ramona.

“When you evacuate for a tsunami, you **GET TO HIGHER GROUND**. That means you go as high up as you can as quickly as you can,” added Jaime.

“Why don’t you practice what you would do to get to higher ground?” suggested Jaime’s mom.

“Yeah, let’s show Pedro how we evacuate during a tsunami,” said Ramona.



“Let’s go, Pedro! Follow us along our evacuation route as we get to higher ground!” said Ramona.

“Wow! We are really high up. You can even see the beach from up here,” said Pedro.



“Exactly! We know that once we get as high up as we can, we stay here until we are told it is safe to go back home. That way, we are safe from the big waves,” said Ramona.



“If you don’t feel an earthquake or see the ocean go way back, you might hear a tsunami warning on the radio, TV, alert on a phone or from a grown-up,” said Jaime.

“A **TSUNAMI WARNING** means a tsunami is headed your way and you should **TAKE ACTION** as fast as you can.

“What should I do?” asked Pedro.

“Evacuate and get to higher ground, just like we practiced!” said Ramona.



“Thank you for practice with me. Now I know what to do to help stay safe!” said Pedro.



After a nice trip visiting his friends, and learning to be prepared and stay safe during a tsunami, Pedro packed to go home.

“You know, sometimes people might not know the signs of a tsunami,” Ramona said. “Just like we taught you how to stay safe, you can share what you learned with other people too, Pedro!”

**“That’s right,” said Pedro.
“I’ve learned so much about tsunamis! It’s important that I share what I’ve learned so others can be prepared and stay safe.”**



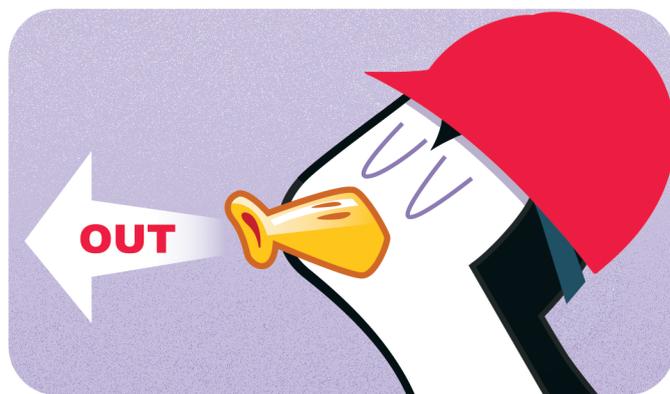
Chill Out with Pedro!



Wow!
Practicing for emergencies is exciting. But it makes me feel nervous, too. So I take big, slow breaths to calm down.



Breathe in slowly through your nose, like me.



Then breathe out slowly through your mouth.

After just five or six breaths, I feel better and start to relax. Try it yourself and see!



Grownups -

We hope that your child has enjoyed learning how to prepare for an emergency! To learn more, please visit:
www.redcross.org/prepare and www.ready.gov/kids.



Pedro's Safety Checklist

- Make a family emergency plan that everyone understands.
- Make a family emergency supplies kit and keep it updated.
- Start saving for an emergency fund.

Did you know that home fires affect more homes in the U.S. than all other emergencies combined?

- Practice your home fire escape drill - be sure you can get outside in 2 minutes or less!
- Test all smoke alarms once a month.



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FEMA

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