

How to Go to an Assembly Site - by Stew M

What do you do if we have an event so unusual - we call it a Disaster - so your home is no longer safe to occupy? It could be a fire or chemical spill near you, an enormous windstorm, or the big earthquake and resulting tsunami.

If you're home, and it's safe to stay -- then stay put; and listen to radio traffic (in your zone, and Ch 119).

If you're away from home, try to find a friend or neighbor, or public building - evaluate if safe, and stay there, again listening to radio.

Some neighborhood clusters are identifying "**gathering sites**" - these are for local residents to get together, if necessary - warm, be sheltered, get latest info, or help one another.

But what about tourists, visitors and those PT home owners who haven't been paying attention - who aren't yet part of our community preparedness? If they cannot stay put, we recommend they go to an Assembly Site.

Assembly sites are, as name suggests, places to assemble when you have nowhere else to be. Some may be in or near buildings, but you'll have to evaluate if it's safe to enter. Some are just a street corner or intersection ... no "there" yet. However, they are "on the map" and EOC, CERT volunteers and others will know how to communicate and visit them, as needed - for medical emergencies, to bring food or supplies, etc.

So how to find an Assembly Site? The older tsunami inundation map shows those, in the "green zone" - look for the big "A". Get these paper maps at any city hall or visitor's center.

If you're a web user, there are two ways to find a map:

- search for "tsunami inundation map Nehalem (or Manzanita)" -- this brings you to the older map
- nvs.nanoos.org/TsunamiEvac (or nvs.nanoos.org and click on Tsunami Evacuation). Now type in your address, and it will show you the map and nearby Assembly Sites. Use the + key to zoom in. You can even search for a few and make them "My Places".

So now you can FIND Assembly sites, what do we DO with that?

1. **Be aware of your situation**, at all times - know the route to high ground, and the nearest Assembly Site: from Home, work, school, shopping, friends, and meetings.
2. **Practice** - take your dog for a walk, up each of these routes? Or with your grandchild? Or other you loved ones. Do this a few times to be really comfortable -- then at least once every 6 months to keep it "fresh in your mind".
3. **Invite a Neighbor to join your PYN Cluster**, to help others become aware of their Assy Sites (or gathering sites) and to practice for their household.