TSUNAMIS IN ALASKA

TRUE OR FALSE...TEST YOUR TSUNAMI (tsoo-NA-me) KNOWLEDGE

1. A tsunami has nothing to do with the tide, but most often is caused by undersea earthquakes.
2. As the tsunami wave approaches the coastline and shallower water, its speed decreases and height increases dramatically.
3. A person can run faster than a tsunami once it reaches the shore.
4. A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves that arrive over 8 to 10 hours; the second and third waves can be larger than the first.
5. As the tsunami moves quickly ashore, the rapidly rising water picks up debris, boats, logs, and other materials that can further destroy buildings and injure people.
6. People in low-lying areas near the ocean are not at risk of tsunami flooding.
7. The last major tsunami to strike an Alaskan community was in March 1964.
8. Nearby earthquakes and landslides can't generate local tsunamis before a warning can be issued.
9. Communities along most of Alaska's southern coast can experience a "distant" tsunami from an earthquke occurring in other parts of the world.
10. To escape a tsunami, sometimes evacuting inland away from the coastline is as important as going to high ground.

Answers for the other side: A: a B: c C: c D: b E: a

TSUNAMIS IN ALASKA

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER...TEST YOUR TSUNAMI (tsoo-NA-me) KNOWLEDGE

A. Based on earthquake records, how often do large offshore earthquakes capable of generating tsunamis strike Alaska?
   a. Every 50-100 years b. Every 300-600 years c. None, There is no way to determine when earthquakes have struck Alaska's Coastal areas.

B. Where can earthquakes occur that could case tsunamis to strike Alaskan Coastal areas?
   a. Alaska-Aleutian Subduction Zone b. Japan and Chile c. a and b

C. In the open ocean, how many miles per hour (MPH) can tsunamis travel?
   a. 75 MPH b. 200 MPH c. 500 MPH (about the speed of a commercial jet)

D. How long can it take a tsunami generated by an earthquake in Japan to reach Alaskan Coastal communities?
   a. 5-30 minutes b. 2-6 hours c. Unable to determine

E. When a nearby earthquake or landslide generates a local tsunami, how soon does the first wave arrive on the closest shoreline?
   a. 5-30 minutes b. 1-3 hours c. 5-10 hours

Heed this safety information on tsunami preparedness but do not let it deter you from enjoying Alaska's Coastal Regions. Tsunamis do not happen very often, but by planning ahead, you will know how to respond if you feel an earthquake or hear that a tsunami warning has been issued by the authorities. What you learn from this information could save your life.

For further preparedness information on earthquakes and tsunamis, contact the State of Alaska Division of Emergency Services, the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, the American Red Cross, or local emergency management agencies. The Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, the University of Alaska Fairbanks-Geophysical Institute can supply scientific information. Your local library will have information on natural disaster planning so you can prepare for these events. Look for tsunami hazard evacuation route signs and other tsunami related public information items in communities along the Alaskan Coast.

Answers for the other side: True: 1,2,4,5,7,9,10 False: 3,6,8