Bellingham Tsunami Evacuation Walk Times

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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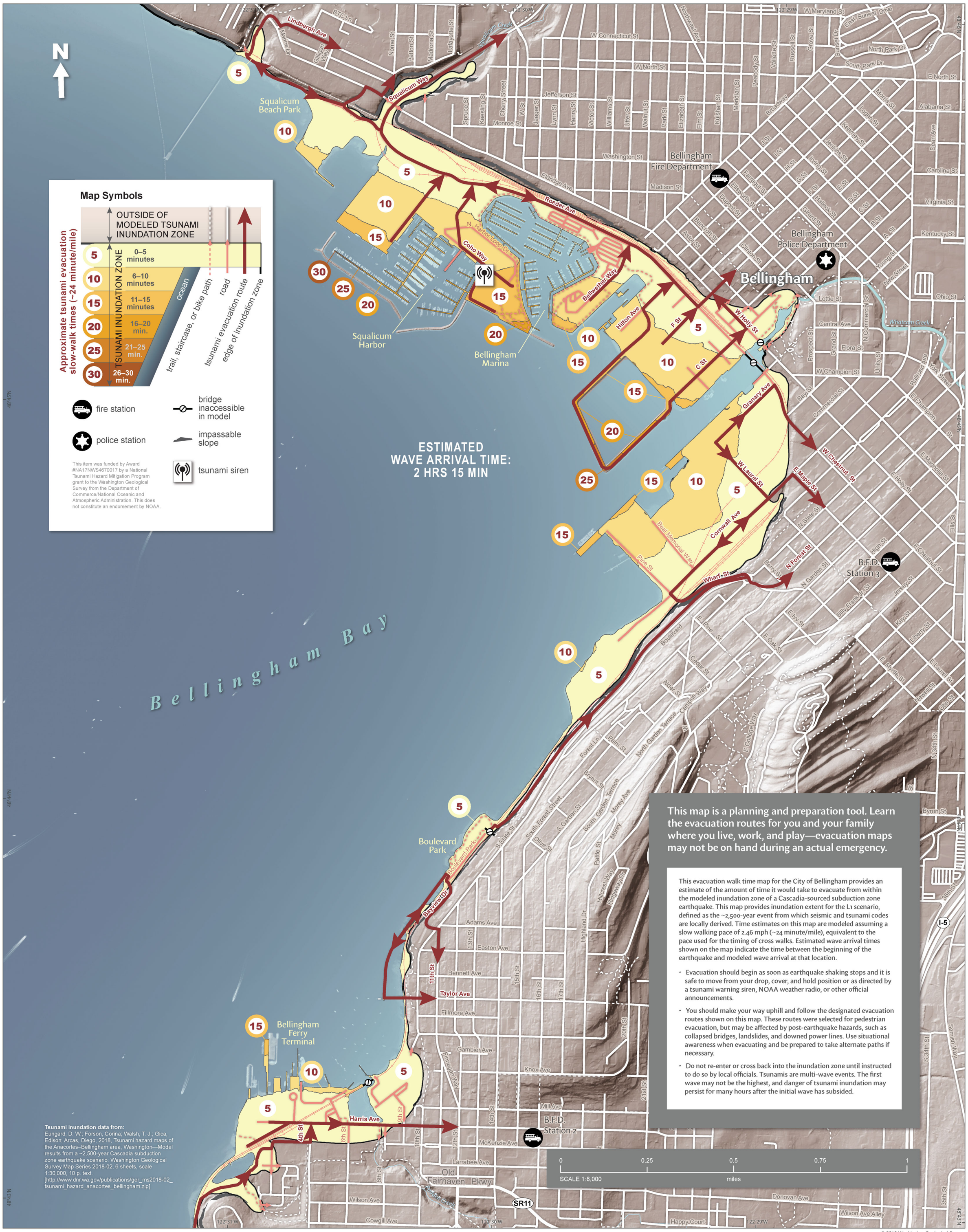
NOAA

National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program



This map is a planning and preparation tool. Learn the evacuation routes for you and your family where you live, work, and play—evacuation maps may not be on hand during an actual emergency.

This evacuation walk time map for the City of Bellingham provides an estimate of the amount of time it would take to evacuate from within the modeled inundation zone of a Cascadia-sourced subduction zone earthquake. This map provides inundation extent for the L1 scenario, defined as the ~2,500-year event from which seismic and tsunami codes are locally derived. Time estimates on this map are modeled assuming a slow walking pace of 2.46 mph (~24 minute/mile), equivalent to the pace used for the timing of cross walks. Estimated wave arrival times shown on the map indicate the time between the beginning of the earthquake and modeled wave arrival at that location.

- Evacuation should begin as soon as earthquake shaking stops and it is safe to move from your drop, cover, and hold position or as directed by a tsunami warning siren, NOAA weather radio, or other official announcements.
- You should make your way uphill and follow the designated evacuation routes shown on this map. These routes were selected for pedestrian evacuation, but may be affected by post-earthquake hazards, such as collapsed bridges, landslides, and downed power lines. Use situational awareness when evacuating and be prepared to take alternate paths if necessary.
- Do not re-enter or cross back into the inundation zone until instructed to do so by local officials. Tsunamis are multi-wave events. The first wave may not be the highest, and danger of tsunami inundation may persist for many hours after the initial wave has subsided.

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