

# Typhoons and Tsunamis

No. 1

## Did you know?

- A typhoon or a tsunami, although rare, could affect Kosrae at any time.
- A serious typhoon could causing flooding and destruction on most of Kosrae’s property, roads and infrastructure.
- As Kosrae is surrounded by deep water, a tsunami is unlikely to have a major impact unless it occurs at the same time as a high tide.
- Building seawalls will not protect your property from the effects of a typhoon.



## How does it affect you?

Almost everyone of Kosrae lives close to the coastline and would be affected by a serious typhoon. Such an event would:

- Cause much damage and destruction to homes, property such as vehicles and boats, roads, coastal defenses and other infrastructure.
- Cause loss of life.



### Some Typhoons and Tsunamis experienced on Kosrae

- 1891 Severe typhoon – six houses left standing and all bread fruit and coconut trees uprooted.
- 1893 Earthquake resulting in a tidal wave.
- 1905 Typhoon – high winds and waves – many injured.
- 1986 Typhoon “Lola”. The typhoon missed Kosrae but strong winds and large waves affected the southern coastline.
- 1992 Typhoon “Axel”. The typhoon missed Kosrae but still produced strong winds and large waves which affected the island.

## What can you do?

- HELP – by being aware that a typhoon or tsunami could affect Kosrae at any time.
- HELP – by building new development as far from the coastline as possible (at least 100 feet from the vegetation)
- HELP – by protecting the natural coastline. Do not sand mine, cut mangroves or other vegetation at the coastline, pollute or have an impact on the coral reef.
- HELP – by being aware that seawalls will not protect you or your property from the effects of a typhoon or tsunami.



## Where to get more information

To get more information on typhoons and tsunamis, contact the Development Review Commission on 370 2076 or come into the office in Tofol.

There are also a number of other factsheets on coastal issues. Contact the DRC for more information.