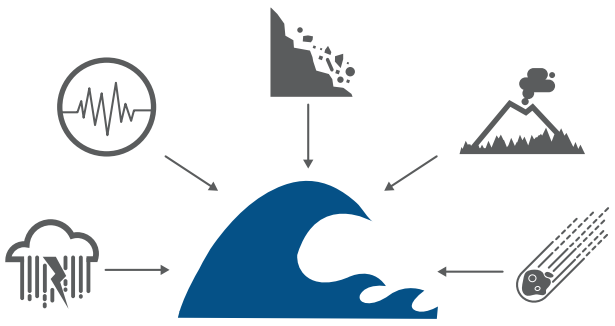
TSUNAMI

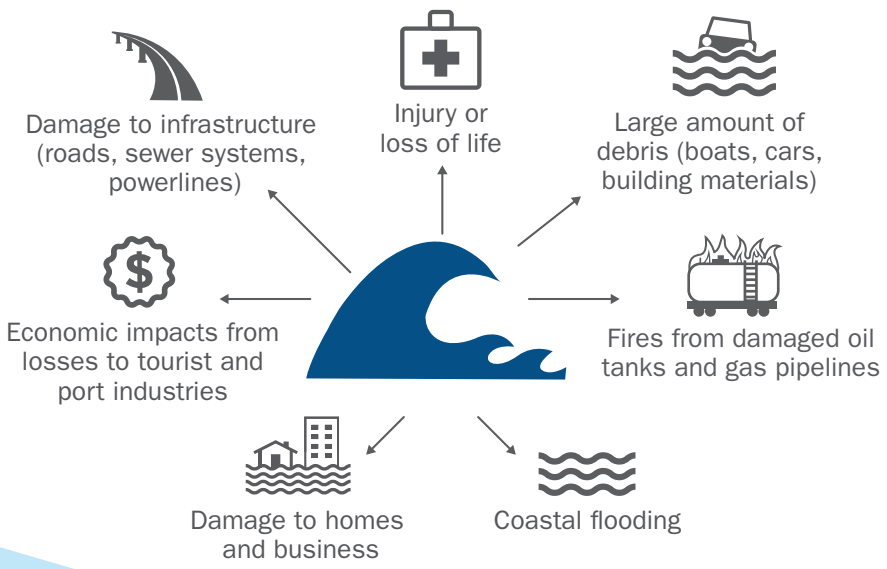
A series of far-reaching waves caused by a large and sudden displacement of the ocean.

CAUSES

Large earthquakes below or near the ocean floor are the most common cause, but landslides, volcanic activity, certain types of weather, and near-earth objects (e.g., asteroids, comets) can also cause tsunamis.

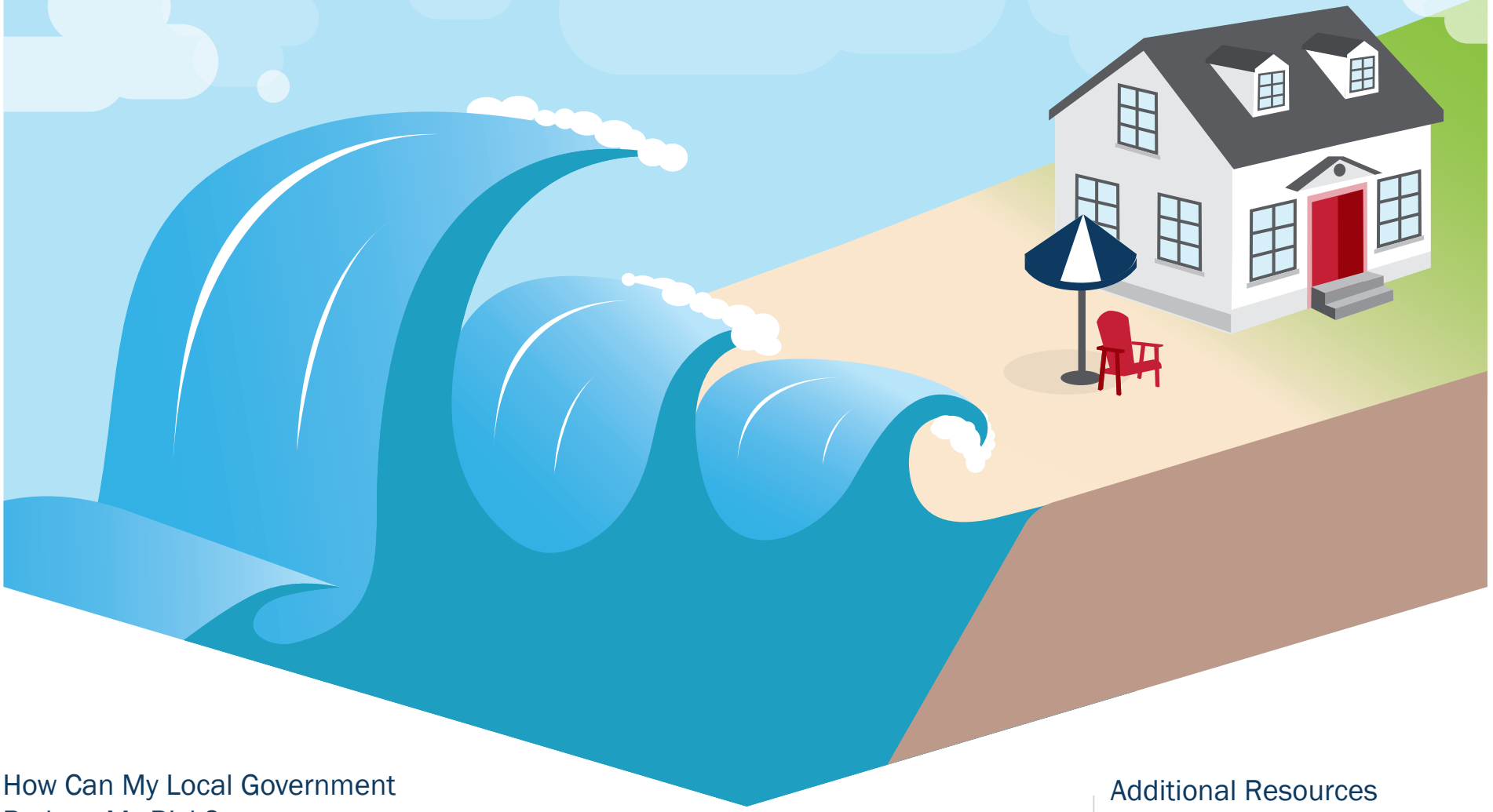


IMPACTS



How Can I Reduce My Risk?

- Know the natural warning signs and how to receive emergency notifications
- Find out if you live, spend time, or travel in a tsunami hazard zone
- Elevate potential sources of fire (like propane tanks) above the tsunami inundation level
- Have an emergency plan
- Consult an engineer about how to protect your coastal home
- Know your tsunami evacuation route



How Can My Local Government Reduce My Risk?

- Keep an inventory of critical infrastructure in the tsunami inundation area
- Build coastal structures to allow for proper vertical evacuation
- Identify tsunami assembly areas, which serve as immediate evacuation locations during a tsunami event (parking lots, buildings, elevated roads)
- Conduct outreach on tsunami evacuation areas and tsunami risk
- Specially design and construct coastal structures to resist both tsunami and earthquake loads
- Adopt and enforce building codes and design standards that contain requirements for tsunami-resistant design
- Relocate fire-prone infrastructure such as electrical lines or oil/gas tanks
- Limit new development in tsunami inundation areas and relocate existing infrastructure outside of the tsunami hazard area

Additional Resources

Ready.gov
https://www.ready.gov/tsunamis

U.S. Tsunami Warning Centers http://tsunami.gov/

For more information on tsunami risk reduction, please contact the State of Alaska Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Coordinator, Sally Russell Cox at sally.cox@alaska.gov, (907) 269-4588.

FEMA

https://www.fema.gov/