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Far East Russia Issues Tsunami Warning After Earthquake Strikes Japan

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A televised message in Japan asking people to evacuate after a series of major earthquakes on Monday.
Mladen Antonov / AFP

A tsunami warning has been issued in Far East Russia after a series of powerful earthquakes struck Japan on Monday, authorities in multiple Russian regions announced.

In the Primorye region city of Vladivostok, located on the coast of the Sea of Japan, authorities said they expect waves to reach 30 centimeters by Monday evening and urged fishing vessels to return to shore.

Nakhodka, another city in the Primorye region, issued a "dragnet alert" and triggered warning sirens, but stressed that residents were not in danger due to the waves, which were expected to reach 57 centimeters.

A similar tsunami alert was issued by the emergency authorities in the neighboring Khabarovsk region.

Embed:

> A massive earthquake has struck Ishikawa Prefecture, central Japan. A tsunami warning has been issued for Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa prefectures of the Japan Sea side of the country. People in these area must evacuate immediately.https://t.co/bZpiKm8wIN pic.twitter.com/hl9ERDhF8C
>
> — NHK WORLD News (@NHKWORLD_News) January 1, 2024

In a since-deleted post on social media, the Sakhalin region's Emergency Situations Ministry branch said its coastal population was being evacuated to safety.

"Everyone located in the coastal part of the Tatar Strait [which separates Sakhalin island from mainland Russia] should immediately seek refuge at heights 30-40 meters above sea level," the ministry said on the Russian social network Vkontakte.

Authorities later told state-run news agencies that the evacuation had been called off since the waves were not expected to reach more than 50 centimeters.

A powerful earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.6 struck western Japan on Monday, triggering tsunami warnings along the length of the country's western coastline and prompting evacuation orders for residents.

The initial more powerful quake was followed by a rapid succession of 21 quakes registering a magnitude of 4 or stronger.

Japanese weather agencies warned that waves up to five meters in height could reach coastal communities, with 1.2-meter waves already reaching some areas by early Monday afternoon.

More than 36,000 households had lost power in some parts of western Japan, according to utilities provider Hokuriku Electric Power.

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