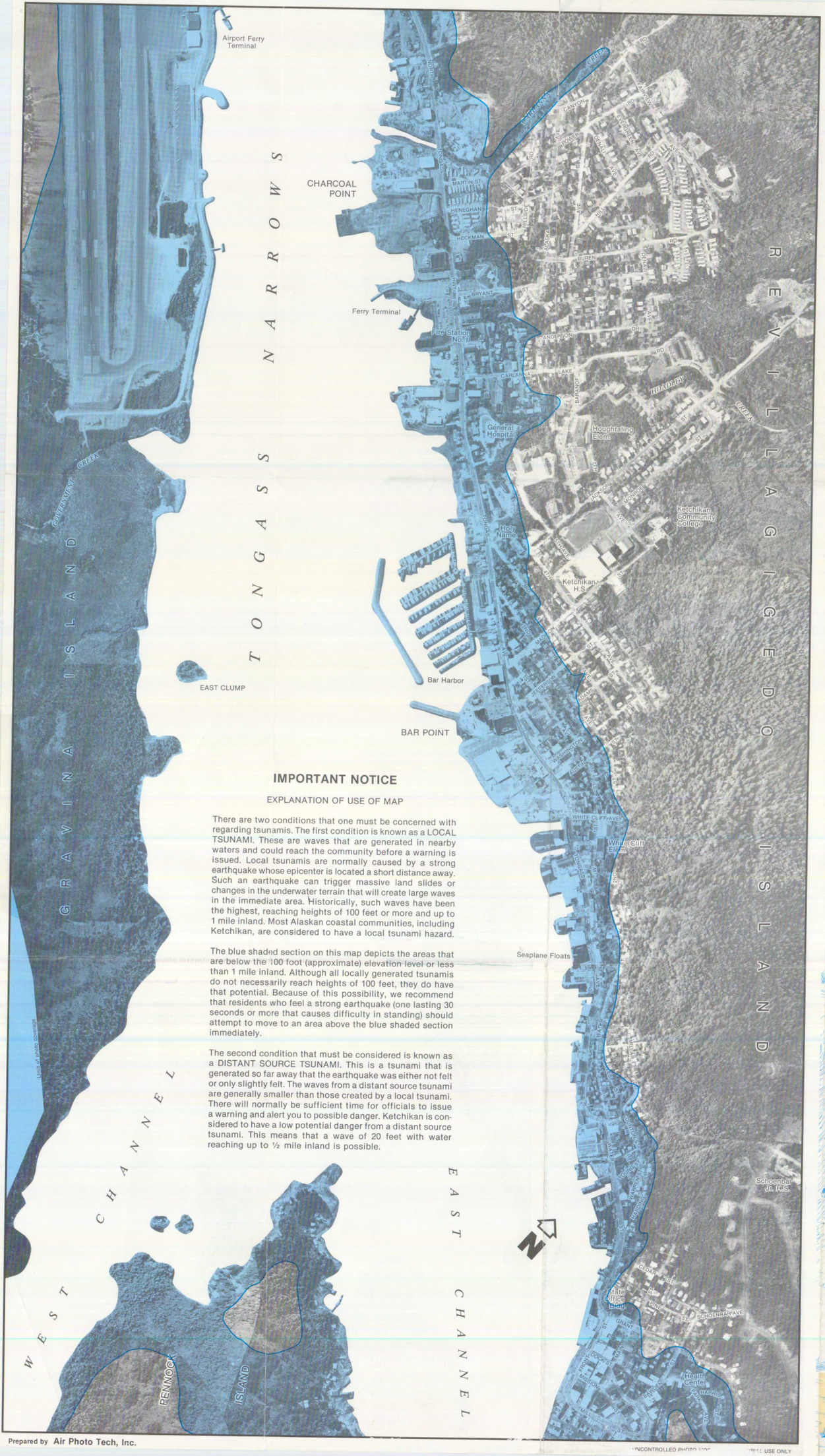


IMPORTANT NOTICE

EXPLANATION OF USE OF MAP

There are two conditions that one must be concerned with regarding tsunamis. The first condition is known as a LOCAL TSUNAMI. These are waves that are generated in nearby waters and could reach the community before a warning is issued. Local tsunamis are normally caused by a strong earthquake whose epicenter is located a short distance away. Such an earthquake can trigger massive land slides or changes in the underwater terrain that will create large waves in the immediate area. Historically, such waves have been the highest, reaching heights of 100 feet or more and up to 1 mile inland. Most Alaskan coastal communities, including Ketchikan, are considered to have a local tsunami hazard.

The blue shaded section on this map depicts the areas that are below the 100 foot (approximate) elevation level or less than 1 mile inland. Although all locally generated tsunamis do not necessarily reach heights of 100 feet, they do have that potential. Because of this possibility, we recommend that residents who feel a strong earthquake (one lasting 30 seconds or more that causes difficulty in standing) should attempt to move to an area above the blue shaded section immediately.

The second condition that must be considered is known as a DISTANT SOURCE TSUNAMI. This is a tsunami that is generated so far away that the earthquake was either not felt or only slightly felt. The waves from a distant source tsunami are generally smaller than those created by a local tsunami. There will normally be sufficient time for officials to issue a warning and alert you to possible danger. Ketchikan is considered to have a low potential danger from a distant source tsunami. This means that a wave of 20 feet with water reaching up to ½ mile inland is possible.

KETCHIKAN
TSUNAMI (tidal wave) SIGNALS

TSUNAMI WATCH SIGNAL

Tsunami watch information will be issued to the community by public address systems on public safety vehicles and by radio and TV.

A tsunami watch means:

1. A possible emergency has occurred.
2. Get official information promptly.

You should:

1. Follow instructions.
2. Prepare to evacuate if a tsunami warning is issued.
3. Listen to commercial radio and TV stations or marine band (2182) for tsunami watch messages.

TSUNAMI WARNING SIGNAL

Tsunami warning information will be issued to the community by public address systems on public safety vehicles, and by radio and TV.

A tsunami warning means:

According to the best scientific evidence available now, a wave is coming.

You should:

1. Go Immediately to closest official **safe area.**
2. Stay there until officials issue an all clear.

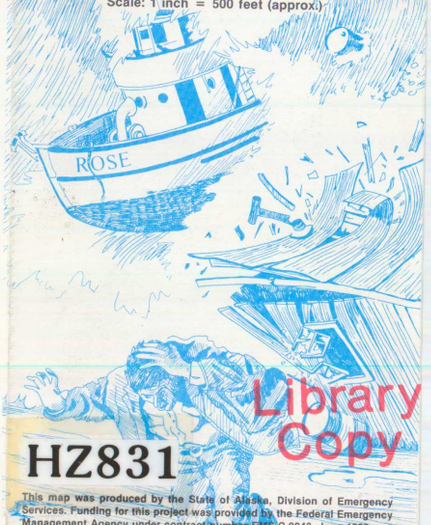
TSUNAMI SAFETY RULES

1. A strong earthquake felt in a low-lying coastal area is a natural warning of possible immediate danger. Keep calm and quickly move to higher ground, away from the coast.
2. All earthquakes do not cause tsunamis, but many do. If the quake is located near or directly under the ocean, the probability of a tsunami increases. When you hear that an earthquake has occurred in the ocean or coastline regions, prepare for a tsunami emergency.
3. A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves. Stay out of danger until an "all clear" is issued by competent authority.
4. Approaching tsunamis are sometimes heralded by a noticeable rise or fall of coastal water. This is nature's warning and should be heeded.
5. A small tsunami at one beach can be a giant a few miles away. Don't let the modest size of one make you lose respect for all.
6. Sooner or later, tsunamis visit every coastline in the Pacific. All tsunamis — like hurricanes — are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.
7. Never go down to the beach to watch for a tsunami. WHEN YOU CAN SEE THE WAVE YOU ARE TOO CLOSE TO ESCAPE.
8. During a tsunami emergency, your local Civil Defense, police, and other emergency organizations will try to save your life. Give them your fullest cooperation.
9. Stay tuned to your radio, marine radio, NOAA Weather Radio or television stations during a tsunami emergency — bulletins issued through Civil Defense and National Weather Service offices can save your life.

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA TSUNAMI HAZARD ZONES (sheet 1 of 2)

Indicating possible flood area (Up to 100 feet above sea level)

Scale: 1 inch = 500 feet (approx.)



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