Tsunami

Main Causes

**EARTHQUAKES**

Large earthquakes occurring beneath the seafloor or close to the shore can generate tsunamis as illustrated in the above diagram.

**VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS**

As illustrated in the diagram above, volcanic eruptions occurring on land can cause tsunamis. Underwater volcanic eruptions can emit large volumes of volcanic material which displace the ocean and generate tsunami waves in the immediate area.

**LANDSLIDES**

As illustrated in the diagram, underwater landslides can cause tsunamis when material loosened by the landslide moves violently, pushing the water in front of it. Landslides occurring on coastal land can force material into the sea, and disturb the water and also cause tsunamis.

Characteristics

Tsunamis slow down but grow in height as they come ashore.

Tsunami waves possess varying characteristics. Tsunami waves can reach as high as 10 metres or more and may strike with devastating force.

The waves travel at jet airliner speeds in deep ocean but slow down and grow in height as they come ashore.