

Student's Name

Instructor's Name

Course

Date

### Caught Up in a Tsunami

A tsunami is a phenomenon that involves a series of strong waves. The waves are generated in the ocean due to earthquakes and other natural forces like volcanic eruptions under ocean beds. Akin to other natural disasters, tsunamis can cause massive damage to property and the environment and lead to multiple deaths (Tanioka et al. 1). Over the years, humanity has seen the disastrous nature of tsunamis; some have wiped out villages and neighborhoods living near the ocean or lakes. Having been a victim of a tsunami, I can confidently say that it is an encounter no one should wish to experience.

When the 2019 hurricane hit, it was unexpected and a terrifying one. I had just traveled to visit my uncle in Alaska. I have always loved traveling to Alaska due to its vast sceneries. It had been about three years since traveling to Alaska, and I had forgotten how harsh the weather could sometimes be. After exchanging pleasantries, we decided to visit Lake Kenai, which we usually call Zig Zag, due to its shape. My uncle had warned me that the weather had been stormy the past few days. He advised me to carry some heavy clothes to keep myself warm.

It rained shortly after we arrived at the lake. We stayed in the recreational vehicle, thinking the storm would pass. A large earthquake that shook our car to the extent that things were dropping from shelves and cabinets startled us. Satake et al. state that such earthquakes near or under oceans can result in great tsunamis (3). My uncle suggested that we immediately get out of there as quickly as possible, or we would soon be swimming our way back home. Terrified by his words, I ran to

the back window to check any change in water levels. To my surprise, I could see water levels increasing as they approached our place. The water waves were enormous, which intensified my worry that we could lose our lives. Before we even made it to a mile, the waters had risen to the extent of carrying our car afloat. We could now see debris and all kinds of things being carried by the water.

In our minds, we thought leaving the lakeside to home was the safe thing to do. However, the water levels were so scary for us to get out of the car. We were at the mercy of the seas, and our fate was unknown were it not for some first responders who were nearby. They saw us and came to our rescue. They took us to a rescue center near the lake's shores until the tsunami subsided. After all the episodes of the tsunami, we could make our way home. From the experiences of this situation, I learned that it is crucial to be prepared in areas where hazards are reported to have significant chances of occurrence. For instance, one can keep a disaster pack in their car and house. James and Sherry (4) highlight that disaster preparedness for families can significantly reduce the number of deaths and injuries. Besides, the experience made me understand the importance of first responders in mitigating and responding to natural disasters.

That fateful day, I learned that natural disasters like tsunamis could cause unfathomable property damage and increase fatalities. With the ability to reach staggering heights, tsunamis can be very catastrophic, thus calling for a fast emergency response to rescue and evacuate the victims from the scene areas. In this regard, governments should implement several measures to mitigate and prevent such disasters from causing extended destruction. I also think that if governments can invest in early warning measures, people's awareness will be created. If signs of a tsunami occurring show up, potential victims can respond by leaving the lake to higher ground.

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