

# TSUNAMI DEBRIS FIELD GUIDE

This guide represents the most common items that have been washing onto beaches in unusually large numbers compared to historical cleanup data. If you encounter tsunami debris in the field use the below guide to alert the authorities. **DO NOT** touch or attempt to move any potentially hazardous materials or large debris items, such as fishing boats or shipping containers. It's difficult to determine the origin of marine debris. Asian characters on debris alone do not confirm it originated during the tsunami, as debris from foreign countries regularly washes onto U.S. West Coast beaches.

## REPORT TSUNAMI DEBRIS TO:

- NOAA for significant debris sightings with as much information as possible, along with a photo, to [DisasterDebris@noaa.gov](mailto:DisasterDebris@noaa.gov)
- Local authorities (a 911 call) for debris posing a risk to beachgoers.
- HAZMAT authorities for possible biohazardous material.
- U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area Command at 510-437-3701 for potential navigational hazards.



Large pieces of foamed plastic



Gas and kerosene containers



55-gallon drums



Appliances with Asian characters



Household goods with Asian characters



Plastic bottles with Asian characters



Lumber and large building materials



Fishing buoys: large black and large foamed plastic buoys



Vessels

The information provided above was informed by NOAA, the California Coastal Commission and International Coastal Cleanup West Coast State Coordinators; and is not intended to forecast the arrival of tsunami debris. For more information visit: <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/tsunamidebris>



Ocean Conservancy