

North coast of Calif. riding out threat of tsunami

By Bill Lindelof and Tony Bizjak, Sacramento Bee

Some minor effects from a possible tsunami have been reported along the California coast this morning, although thousands were evacuated from a handful of coastal counties as a precaution.

Ocean swells have begun to rise quickly in the last hour in some coastal areas, with Crescent City a hot spot, officials with the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center report at 8:30 a.m.

Crescent City harbor is seeing a three-foot sea level rise in the last hour, according to Cindi Preller, tsunami program manager at the center in Alaska.

"Our modeling still says it can go up to seven feet," Preller said.

That may not cause major problems, she said. "We have seen tsunamis there that do stay in the harbor."

Monterey and Arena Cove areas have seen a 2.5-foot sea level rise in the last hour, she said. But Preller said San Francisco "shouldn't see a whole lot of action."

Brad Alexander of the state Emergency Management Agency operations center said the California coast will experience rising water over a several-hour period this morning, but no huge waves.

Read the whole story