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Millions Return Home as Tsunami Threat Recedes After Massive Earthquake

August 1, 2025

– Categories: Breaking News



Tsunami warnings across Japan, Hawaii, and parts of the western United States have been lifted following a powerful 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck near the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East on Wednesday. Although the quake, one of the largest ever recorded, prompted widespread evacuations and triggered waves across the Pacific, authorities have now downgraded the warnings, allowing nearly two million people in Japan alone to return home.

The earthquake's impact was felt across the Pacific Rim, with tsunami waves observed in coastal areas of Japan, Hawaii, and California. Fortunately, no major damage has been reported in the affected regions, though some injuries have occurred. In Japan, a woman in her 50s tragically died after her vehicle veered off a cliff while she was en route to an evacuation center in Mie Prefecture. Ten others, primarily in Hokkaido, sustained injuries while seeking shelter.

Chile maintained its tsunami alerts along most of its Pacific coastline well after other nations began easing restrictions. New Zealand, meanwhile, renewed warnings urging residents to stay clear of the water as a precaution. Japan was among the last to lift its emergency alert, transitioning many areas to a lower-level advisory status earlier today.

Emergency services responded swiftly across multiple nations, including Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, which all lifted their tsunami alerts this morning as the threat subsided. Authorities are continuing to monitor coastal conditions, but the immediate danger appears to have passed. The rapid international response and early warning systems were credited with preventing a greater toll from the incident.