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Air Travel Disrupted as U.S. and Hawaii Respond to Tsunami Threat After Massive Russian Quake

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Categories: Breaking News



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A major earthquake off Russia's Pacific coast—measuring 8.8 in magnitude—has caused significant disruption across the U.S. travel network, with flights to Hawaii paused or diverted amid a widening tsunami threat. Authorities are urging travelers and residents to take the situation seriously as evacuation efforts are underway and airports are canceling operations.

The quake, which struck just 84 miles offshore at a shallow depth of 12 miles, has triggered widespread tsunami warnings. The state of Hawaii, already on high alert, has seen waves as high as six feet hit the Midway Atoll, with further surges expected. A tsunami, derived from the Japanese word meaning “harbor wave,” is typically caused by underwater seismic activity such as earthquakes or landslides. These powerful ocean disturbances can displace large volumes of water and result in multiple waves capable of widespread destruction.

Airlines, including Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines, have suspended services to and from the islands. Flights en route were diverted back to the mainland, and a travel waiver has been issued, allowing passengers scheduled between July 29 and 30 to reschedule without penalty. Airports in Los Angeles and Maui were filled with stranded passengers, while Hawaii's commercial harbors have closed as a precaution.

In Maui, over 200 people sheltered at the airport, and all flights were grounded. Sirens and emergency alerts have warned the population: “You are in danger. Get away from coastal waters. Move to high ground or inland now.” Hawaiian Governor Josh Green emphasized the danger, stating that even vehicles and fences can be swept away, posing deadly threats.

On the U.S. mainland, Crescent City, California, is under a Tsunami Warning, a term used by the *National Weather Service (NWS)* to indicate a likely or ongoing significant flood event from the ocean. Sirens echoed through the streets Tuesday evening, evoking memories of the devastating 1964 tsunami triggered by an Alaskan quake.

While the broader California coastline remains under a Tsunami Advisory, a lower-level alert indicating hazardous currents, residents are advised to steer clear of beaches and

follow local directives. The NWS warns that tsunami threats often involve a series of waves, not just one, and danger can persist for hours.

Officials continue to monitor the evolving situation, urging the public to stay alert and avoid unnecessary travel or risk.