

SF Table 5.1. Comparison of storm and tsunamis waves

Type	Storm Waves	Tsunamis
Source	Generated by wind	Most commonly generated by seismic events (earthquake)
Wave characteristics	Deep water waves	Shallow water waves
Length of event	Hours to days	Brief: minutes to hours
Frequency	Many storms, usually around 40 per year	Average of two events per year, with only one every 15 years catastrophic
Predictability	Storms can be tracked days ahead of time, but may unexpectedly change direction	Seismic events may give minutes to hours of warning before a tsunami hits land depending on location
Alerting agency (U.S.)	National Weather Service	Tsunami Warning Center (via National Weather Service)
Deadliest events*	Bangladesh Cyclone: 1970; 300,000 dead	Sunda Straits, Indonesia: 1883: 36,000 dead Bangladesh, 2004: 226,000 dead
Costliest events*	Hurricane Andrew, 1992: \$22 billion in damages; Hurricane Katrina, 2005: \$100 billion	Prince William Sound, Alaska, 1964: \$84 million in damages (primarily to fishing industry); Eastern Japan, 2011: \$300 billion in damages in addition to extensive environmental damage due to destruction of a nuclear power plant

*As of 2014