

Sieberg-Ambraseys sea-wave intensity scale

Also called *Modified Sieberg sea-wave intensity scale*, it is a 6-grade descriptive tsunami intensity scale developed by Ambraseys (1962) and based on the Sieberg sea-wave intensity scale (1927).

Intensity	Description
I. Very light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wave so weak as to be perceptible only on tide-gauge records.
II. Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wave noticed by those living along the shore and familiar with the sea. • On very flat shores generally noticed.
III. Rather strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally noticed. • Flooding of gently sloping coasts. • Light sailing vessels or small boats carried away on shore. • Slight damage to light structures situated near the coast. • In estuaries reversal of the river flow some distance upstream.
IV. Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding of the shore to some depth. • Light scouring on man-made ground. • Embankments and dikes damaged. • Light structures near the coasts damaged. • Solid structures on the coast injured. • Big sailing vessels and small ships carried inland or out to sea. • Coasts littered with floating debris.
V. Very strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General flooding of the shore to some depth. • Breakwater walls and solid structures near the sea damaged. • Light structures destroyed. • Severe scouring of cultivated land and littering of the coast with floating items and sea animals. • With the exception of big ships, all other type of vessels carried inland or out to sea.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big bores in estuary rivers. • Harbour works damaged. • People drowned. • Wave accompanied by strong roar.
VI. Disastrous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial or complete destruction of man-made structures for some distance from the shore. • Flooding of coasts to great depths. • Big ships severely damaged. • Trees uprooted or broken. • Many casualties.

Source: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Fourth Edition. Tsunami Glossary, 2019. Paris, UNESCO. IOC Technical Series, 85. (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese) (IOC/2008/TS/85)