

Researchers find source of 1964 devastating Alaska tsunami

February 1 2016, by Dan Joling

Federal scientists say they've pinpointed the cause of tsunami waves that destroyed an Alaska village following the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, the second-largest ever recorded, at magnitude 9.2.

The U.S. Geological Survey says undersea landslides in water up to 1,150 feet deep triggered a [tsunami](#) that killed 23 people in the Prince William Sound village of Chenega (chen-EE'-gah).

That's far deeper than the underwater slides that sent deadly [tsunami waves](#) into the towns of Valdez (val-DEEZ), Seward and Whittier.

Undersea mapping shortly after the quake reached only about 330 [feet](#), and the cause of the Chenega tsunami previously was a mystery. USGS researchers used multi-beam sonar and other tools to find evidence of deeper slide.

The deadly waves reached Chenega four minutes after the earthquake.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Researchers find source of 1964 devastating Alaska tsunami (2016, February 1) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-02-source-devastating-alaska-tsunami.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.