# Disasters Handbook and Evacuation Card

## Natural Disasters in Japan





## Earthquakes and Tsunamis

An earthquake is a natural phenomenon whereby the ground shakes violently, often causing large cracks in the earth and landslides. Earthquakes that occur in the ocean can cause tsunamis (rapidly moving tidal waves) which can destroy towns along the seashore.





## Tornados and Flash Flooding

A tornado is a violently rotating column of wind. Tornados that form on land can be severe enough to tear the roofs off houses. Flash flooding often occurs in hot summers. Flash flooding is when black clouds suddenly form and are followed by heavy rainfall and strong winds. Such heavy rainfall in a short amount of time means that there is a risk of collapsing flood defenses (embankments, levees, etc.) and severe flooding.

# What to do if there is an earthquake.

#### @If you are at home

—Turn off all gas appliances and disconnect all electrical appliances from their outlets (unplug from the electrical socket). Keep away from concrete walls in around your house as they may fall over.

—In a natural disaster, you will probably be unable to use your phone (including mobile/cellular phones) to contact your family. You are advised to decide on a meeting place in advance for situations such as earthquakes and to maintain contact with your family via e-mail.

#### @If you are in a building

-Do not rush outside. If you do, there is a danger that you will be hit by broken glass falling from other buildings. Follow the instructions of the building's staff. The staff will determine where you should go and when it is safe to go outside.

—In case of a power outage, emergency lights and guidance lights will be illuminated. Follow these lights and arrows to find your way to an emergency exit

#### @If you are in the mountains

 Be careful of falling rocks and landslides. Make your way to a more open area.

#### @If you are near the ocean

 It is very likely that a tsunami will follow the earthquake. Evacuate to higher ground (mountains, tall buildings, etc.).

—Tsunami waves do not only strike once- but can strike two or three times. The second or third waves can be much higher and more powerful waves than the first.

—Heavy traffic on roads near the shore is likely to build up, make escaping by car impossible. Park your car immediately on the left hand side of the road or in a car park and evacuate on foot. (If you are travelling by car when an earthquake strikes and are unable to move your vehicle, leave the keys in the ignition and abandon your car. This is so that your car can be moved if emergency vehicles need to get by).

#### What to do in case of a tornado

If you are in your home, you are relatively safe, but if your home is directly hit by a tornado, protect yourself by hiding inside a bathtub or in a room with no windows.

# What do to in case of flash flooding

If you are near a river and flash flooding occurs upstream, the water level will rise rapidly and there is a danger that you will be swept into the river and carried downstream. If an Emergency Evacuation Order (Kinkyū-hinan-shiji) is issued, move away from the river as fast as possible.

# Where to go if your house is destroyed

"Hinan shite kudsai" means "move to an evacuation area". If the television or the people around you say "hinan shite kudsai", proceed to an evacuation area as fast as possible.

Schools are designated as evacuation areas. Go to the nearest school as fast as possible, regardless of whether you are working or travelling on vacation- go to the nearest school as fast as possible.

Evacuation areas have food and water supplies, as well as food, medicine, etc. Evacuation areas are free for anyone to use.

Evacuation areas will also be able to provide useful information in Japanese as well as foreign languages. There may be someone there who can interpret for you.



### Evacuation Card in Case of Disaster



# 災害のときの言葉 Disasters- Key Vocabulary

避難所

····· Hinanjo-Evacuation Area

余震

····· Yoshin-Aftershock

震源

······ Shingen-Epicenter

震度

······ Shindo- Intensity

停電

····· Teiden-Power Outage

断水

····· Dansui-Water Outage

給水

····· Kyuusui-Water Supply

警 報

····· Keihō- Warning

注意報

····· Chūihō- Advice

炊き出し

····· Takidashi- Food Provision

暴風雨

..... Bōfūu-Heavy Storm

洪 水

······ Kouzui-Flooding

氾濫

······ Hanran- Overflowing

ライフライン

····· Raifurain- Lifeline

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