Stop post-earthquake fires from spreading!

In the “Estimated Damage from a Tokyo-Epicentered Major Earthquake” (see Earthquake Map), Ota City is predicted to lose 642 lives and 32,218 buildings to fires. These predicted losses are the highest in all of Tokyo’s 23 wards. The key to minimizing damage is to prevent fires from spreading.

Don’t let fires break out in your home!

1. **After the tremors stop, check on potential fire sources**
   For the duration of the earthquake, it is most important to keep yourself safe. Wait until after the tremors stop to shut off stoves and gas valves.

2. **Install fire alarms in your home**
   Install fire alarms to alert you of fires in your home and quake-sensitive breakers to prevent electrical fires.

3. **Do not leave objects near heaters**
   Do not leave laundry or other flammable items near heaters.

4. **Use flame-resistant curtains, carpets, etc.**
   Help prevent the spread of fires by using flame-resistant curtains and carpets that do not catch fire easily.

5. **Install a fire extinguisher and learn how to use it**
   If a fire breaks out in your home, using a fire extinguisher while the fire is still small can dramatically cut down on potential damage.

If a fire breaks out, extinguish it while it’s still small!

If a fire breaks out or you see a fire…
- Alert others to the fire in a loud voice. If you cannot yell, ring an emergency bell or bang on a noisy surface.
- Call 119. Calmly report the location of the fire.
- Stand upwind of the fire to avoid heat and smoke.
- If indoors, stand with your back against an exit to secure an evacuation route.

How to use a fire extinguisher
- Bring the fire extinguisher to the fire

1. Pull the safety pin out from the top.
2. Remove the hose and point it at the source of the fire.
3. Squeeze hard on the lever to spray.

Key points in extinguishing a fire
- Stand upwind of the fire to avoid heat and smoke.
- If indoors, stand with your back against an exit to secure an evacuation route.
- Wave the hose right and left over the source of the flame, not the flame itself.

Also use roadside fire extinguishers in disaster situations!

There are 6,900 fire extinguishers located at roadsides throughout the town at roughly 100m intervals. Check their locations on the “Wagamachi Disaster Prevention Network” website.

Work together with locals to extinguish fires early!

In the event that multiple fires occur simultaneously in the city, the fire department and firefighter crews will not be able to respond to all of the fires. However, if you act while fires are still small, fire extinguishers, bucket brigades, and other small-scale methods can extinguish them. Early-stage firefighting by locals is very important.

In Ota City, citizens’ disaster organizations have been formed by neighborhood and town councils. Early-stage firefighting is performed using portable fire pumps, standpipes, and other firefighting equipment. It is important for you too to participate in firefighting activities to protect yourself and your family. (See No. 6 for more information on citizens’ disaster organizations.)

Firefighting equipment deployed with citizens’ disaster organizations

- **Portable fire pump**
  This motor-driven pump sprays water drawn up from a “fire prevention water tank” or similar water source.

- **Standpipe**
  Connects to a roadside fire hydrant and utilizes the pressure to spray water.

If you cannot extinguish the fire…

If you determine that extinguishing a fire is impossible, protecting lives is the top priority. You should work together with neighbors to evacuate quickly. (See No. 6 for evacuation methods.)
After the Great East Japan Earthquake, 90% of the people who died in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures drowned in a tsunami. In Ota City, it is predicted that some areas will be flooded by a tsunami if the floodgates are open. Always be prepared for a possible tsunami, and note the locations of evacuation areas and routes.

### Predicted tsunami-induced floods in Ota City

The height of a tsunami in Ota City at high tide is predicted to be a maximum of 1.58 meters T.P.* following an earthquake beneath northern Tokyo Bay, or 2.27 meters following an earthquake like the 1703 Genroku earthquake. Because embankments and seawalls are built to be taller than a tsunami wave, Ota City is not predicted to suffer any damage due to a tsunami. However, if the floodgates are left open, it is predicted that some areas will be flooded. Check the “tsunami hazard map” on the Ota City website to see which areas would be flooded.

### Signs displaying height above sea level

Signs indicating height above sea level can be found at public primary schools, junior high schools, coastal areas, city bulletin boards along the Tama River, and some temporary meeting places.

### If a tsunami warning is issued

If a tsunami is predicted to occur due to an earthquake, a massive tsunami warning (special warning), tsunami warning, or tsunami advisory will be issued. If a tsunami warning is issued, a siren will sound on the Ota City disaster prevention wireless system along with a warning broadcast on maximum volume. Once a warning has been issued, immediately evacuate away from the ocean and rivers to a tall building or school.

#### Masssive tsunami warning / Tsunami warning / Tsunami advisory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warning category</th>
<th>Predicted tsunami height</th>
<th>Expression used if there is a massive earthquake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massive tsunami warning (special warning)</td>
<td>10m or more</td>
<td>Massive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsunami warning</td>
<td>5 – 10m</td>
<td>10m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsunami advisory</td>
<td>1 – 3m</td>
<td>3m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20cm – 1m</td>
<td>1m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* T.P. = Average sea level in Tokyo Bay (height of yearly average sea level at high and low tide).

### Take the following actions if there is a tsunami!

#### When...

**You are near the coast or a river**

If you are near the sea, stop your car and evacuate to high ground or a tall, sturdy building. Do not evacuate in your car.

**You are at home**

Calmly follow the teachers’ instructions and follow everyone else to a higher floor or other safe place. Look out for tsunami warnings. (If evacuation is necessary, immediately evacuate to a high building or similar location.)

**You are at school**

If a major earthquake occurs, do not wait for a tsunami warning. Immediately evacuate away from the sea and rivers to a tall, sturdy building.

**You are in a moving car**

If you are near the sea, stop your car and evacuate to high ground or a tall, sturdy building. Do not evacuate in your car.

### Tsunami Temporary Evacuation Facilities

There are designated “Tsunami Temporary Evacuation Facilities” placed around Ota City, primarily near the coast and along the Tama River. Check the Ota City website for a list of facilities.
Disaster prevention at apartment buildings

Apartment buildings are typically said to be highly earthquake-resistant, but a building’s height is a weakness. Residents should find out the different ways in which their apartment building is disaster-resistant, and prepare as appropriate.

**Research the problems and types of damage which are unique to apartment buildings**

**Tremors**
The higher the floor, the more it will shake. There is a higher chance of injury due to falling or toppling objects than at lower floors.

**Plumbing**
If pipes are damaged, running water for bathrooms and kitchens will be cut off.

**Movement and transport**
Elevators will stop and it will be difficult to move people or materials to high floors.

**Special needs**
The safety of some elderly and disabled individuals cannot be ensured by themselves or their families alone.

Even after an earthquake, it is best to continue living at home

Evacuation centers are likely be packed with people and in a state of confusion after a disaster. If your apartment building is undamaged, it is best to simply continue living at your usual home, without going to an evacuation center!

Key points for continuing life at home

1. Anti-toppling measures for furniture to ensure safety indoors
2. Household supplies
3. Ways of handling trash and excrement

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Disaster prevention at apartment buildings

Measures to take at home

**Anti-toppling measures for furniture**
Take steps to prevent furniture and other objects from toppling over. Measures you take to make your indoor environment safe will be of great help to you after an earthquake.

**Simple toilets**
Do not use running water until it is confirmed that pipes are undamaged. Use a "simple toilet" instead of a normal one. Ensure that rules are made for how to deal with waste, e.g. each apartment can temporarily store used toilet bags on its own balcony or similar location, taking the waste out on a specified day.

**Household supplies**
After an earthquake, elevators will stop and it will be difficult to get materials to high floors. Stock up on lots of water and food to prepare for the period after an earthquake.

**Safety checks**
Check on your neighbors to make sure they are OK. The elderly and disabled in particular need proactive assistance.

**Doors / Emergency exits / Emergency stairs**
After an earthquake, open the doors in your home and ensure there is an evacuation route available. Also, always ensure that you do not put objects in the way of emergency exits or emergency stairways.

**Apartment residents are also members of the community!**
In a disaster, neighborhood and town councils act to minimize damage through early-stage firefighting, help and rescue activities, and running evacuation centers. Apartment residents, as fellow community members, must do their part in disaster prevention activities as well!

Participate regularly in disaster drills conducted by neighborhood and town councils. Build good relations with your neighbors so that you can help each other out if a disaster strikes!

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Apartment buildings have the advantage of housing lots of people in one building. Make use of this fact by creating an environment where the residents of the entire apartment complex work together.
Protect your house from floods!

**Protection begins with information collection**

Weather forecasts can predict typhoons several days in advance and concentrated torrential downpours on the day of their occurrence. Check the weather forecast every day, and if extra care is needed get the latest information from TV or the internet to remain prepared ahead of time.

**Protect your house from flood damage!**

During light flooding, sandbags and water bags can be used to prevent water from entering the building. Flooding can also occur on the second and higher floors if balcony drainage is clogged up. Care is needed as backflow from sewers is common.

**Preparations during your everyday life**

- **Drainage cleaning and building inspections**
  - If drainage or storm water drains are clogged with garbage, heavy rains can cause flooding inside buildings. Carry out regular inspections. Additionally, steps should be taken to prepare the building interior against flooding and strong winds.
  - **Roof**
    - Fix gaps and cracks in tiles and metal sheets
    - Secure antenna firmly in place
  - **Balcony**
    - Clean drainage
    - Remove objects that can be blown away by strong winds
  - **Storm shutters**
    - Reinforce shutters so that they do not rattle and shake
  - **Retaining walls**
    - Check for cracks
    - Check whether drainage holes are clogged
  - **Rain gutters**
    - Check whether gutters are properly connected or paint is peeling
    - Clean to avoid blockage due to dirt or fallen leaves
  - **Window glass**
    - Check for cracks, damage, or looseness
  - **Drainage and storm water drains**
    - Check for blockages by garbage or other objects

- **Ways to prevent house flooding**

  - **Sandbags**
    - Ota City offers free sandbag delivery. Moreover, there are 20 sandbag storage sites in Ota which allow immediate retrieval and use in an emergency. Check the Ota City website for the locations of sandbag storage sites.
  - **Simple water bags**
    - Simple water bags can be made using items around your house (cardboard and plastic bags).
    - **How to make a water bag**
      1. Double up two plastic bags
      2. Place the full bag into a cardboard box.
  - **Water-stopping board**
    - Place a board reinforced by sandbags across entrances and doorways to prevent flooding.
  - **Drainage pumps**
    - Inspect drainage facilities in semi-basement garages and similar locations. If there are no drainage facilities, a drainage pump which you can find in regular stores can be effective.

**Other uses**

There is the possibility that sewage water from the toilet or elsewhere may backflow into the sink or bathtub drains. Block the drains with large water bags to stop such flooding.

**In Ota City**

Free delivery and storage sites for sandbags

Contact the local Urban Maintenance Planning Division.

Subsidies for installing storm water infiltration facilities

A storm water infiltration facility gathers rainwater from gutters and lets it soak into the soil underground.
Storm and flood damage countermeasures

Landslides, lightning, tornadoes, and hail

Protecting yourself from landslides
- **Near steep slopes (cliffs)**
  Heavy rains may cause the ground to weaken around steep slopes, potentially causing a landslide. Special care is needed during long periods of rainfall or on unreinforced natural slopes. Check the status of steep slopes in your vicinity, look for landslide warnings issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency, or look for evacuation advisories issued by Ota City.

  ![Image of landslides](image1)

  **Telltale signs of an imminent landslide**
  - Muddy water, strange noises, pebbles and small rocks falling, etc.
  - Loose or caved-in ground
  - Crevasses

Protecting yourself from lightning
- **When indoors…**
  1. Keep a distance of 1m or more from lights, TVs, and all other electrical equipment.
  2. Do not touch water. Stop washing dishes, cooking, taking a bath, etc.

- **When outdoors…**
  1. If lightning is predicted, take shelter immediately by entering a building or a vehicle.
  2. Don’t ever take shelter under tall trees or tree trunks, as this is very dangerous.

  ![Image of lightning](image2)

  **Signs of imminent lightning**
  - Cumulonimbus clouds (storm clouds)
  - The skies darken
  - Sudden gusts of wind
  - Heavy rain

When a tornado is approaching
- **When indoors…**
  1. Shut curtains and windows (including storm shutters)
  2. Move toward the center of the house to a room with no windows.
  3. Move to the lowest floor or basement of the building.
  4. Climb under a sturdy table to protect yourself.

- **When outdoors…**
  1. Evacuate into the closest sturdy building, watching out for glass and other shattered material.
  2. If there are no sturdy buildings nearby, take cover behind a sturdy structure.

  ![Image of tornado](image3)

  **Warning signs**
  - Suddenly dark sky
  - Large raindrops and hail
  - Funnel-shaped clouds
  - Loud sound similar to a jet airplane

"Watch out for hail!"

Cumulonimbus clouds (storm clouds) may also produce hail, in addition to lightning and tornadoes. Lumps of hail can be very dangerous. Evacuate immediately into a safe building or vehicle.

Evacuating from storms and floods
- **Unlike with earthquakes, this type of damage is localized.** Thus, it is necessary to judge for yourself whether to evacuate or not.

- **Even if an evacuation advisory has not been issued, evacuate independently.**

  ![Image of evacuation advisory](image4)

  **(What you need to watch for)**
  - Landslide warning signs around steep slopes (cliffs)
  - Rising water levels around rivers etc.

  **(What can be predicted by weather forecasts)**
  - The time at which typhoons and concentrated torrential downpours will hit
  - *There is risk involved in evacuating in dark or stormy conditions.*

  * If evacuation centers have not been opened due to the absence of an evacuation advisory, evacuate instead to a friend or relative’s home.
  * If you see anything unusual, inform the local government, fire department, or police department.

When to evacuate
- **1 When it’s light outside**
- **2 Before stormy conditions develop**

If you feel that your life is in danger staying where you are…
- **Horizontal evacuation (leave and go elsewhere)**
  - Evacuation center (Public primary or junior high school, etc.)

  ![Image of evacuation center](image5)

  **Evacuation preparation information**
  - There is an elevated risk of human casualties
  - This is the stage at which the elderly and disabled begin to evacuate

  **Evacuation advisory**
  - There is a markedly elevated risk of human casualties
  - This is the stage at which people in the designated area begin to evacuate

  **Evacuation order**
  - There is an extremely high danger of human casualties, or casualties have already begun to occur
  - This is the stage at which those in the middle of evacuating complete this process. Those who have not yet evacuated must do so immediately.
Locations of emergency first-aid stations

Emergency first-aid stations will be established in the event that an earthquake of seismic intensity 6 or greater occurs.

If you are injured in an earthquake and need examination or treatment by a doctor, proceed to one of the emergency first-aid stations listed below. These stations will utilize a triage process, whereby staff first determine the type of treatment needed by visitors, then respond in order of priority. Small injuries will receive first-aid, but moderate and more severe cases will be transported to a hospital. Emergency first-aid stations will open immediately after the disaster and remain open for around 72 hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital or school name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ota Hospital</td>
<td>2 Chome-7-10 Igarashi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Rosai Hospital</td>
<td>3 Chome-21/2 Matsuzakicho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toho University Omori Medical Center</td>
<td>3 Chome-11-10 Omori-nishi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yauda Hospital</td>
<td>1 Chome-11-18 Omori-keita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makita General Hospital</td>
<td>1 Chome-34-6 Omori-keita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsui Hospital</td>
<td>2 Chome-7-10 Igarashi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negami General Hospital</td>
<td>6 Chome-1-10 Igarashi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omori Red Cross Hospital</td>
<td>4 Chome-36-1 Chuo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denenchofu Central Hospital</td>
<td>3 Chome-40-1 Denenchofu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyoto Hospital</td>
<td>1 Chome-11-17 Omori-keita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCHO Tokyo Kamata Medical Center</td>
<td>2 Chome-23-3 Kamata-shin-sha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honda Hospital</td>
<td>1 Chome-11/13 Omori-shi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Kamata Hospital</td>
<td>7 Chome-10-14 Omori-kamazu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOCH Tokyo Kamata Medical Center</td>
<td>2 Chome-7-10 Omori-shi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watanahe Hospital</td>
<td>1 Chome-5-16 Hanaeda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magome Elementary School</td>
<td>1 Chome-30/1 Minami magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higashi Chujo Junior High School</td>
<td>29-15 Denenchofu-minami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sendai Hospital</td>
<td>2 Chome-17-15 Higashi-yaguchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rekuso Junior High School</td>
<td>7 Chome-10-14 Minami-keita</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rokugo Junior High School</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Chome-11-17 Omori-keita</td>
<td>1 Chome-34-6 Omori-keita</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emergency first-aid stations will be established on the grounds of the above hospitals and schools or immediately nearby.

In a disaster situation, information is crucial!

After a disaster, acquire the latest information from TV, radio, the internet, and other sources. Ota City will also broadcast local information as necessary.

Ota City website

- Top-left side of the main page
  - Tatemae information:
    - 緊急情報を一覧
    - いつでもどこでも
  - 防災・防犯
  - 臨時・休止管理
  - わがまち防犯ネット

"Wagamachi Disaster Prevention Network" website

See a map of the locations of roadside fire extinguishers, fire prevention water tanks, fire hydrants, AGSs, evacuation areas, evacuation centers, etc. This site can be viewed on a computer or mobile device.

Ota City Twitter account

Disaster information for Ota City will be posted here. Type "大規模災害" in the search bar to find it.

Ota City Safety Email List

- List of sandbag storage sites
- Rain gauges (rainfall measurements from 6 locations in Ota City)
- Flood safety cameras (video feed of water levels at Nomikawa River, etc.)
- Download disaster prevention pamphlets

Join a citizens’ disaster organization

In the event of a major disaster, fire and police departments will not necessarily be able to respond immediately. For this reason, communities step forward to “protect our town ourselves,” forming groups such as citizens’ disaster organizations through individual neighborhood and town councils. Let’s join together as a community to help each other.

Activities of citizens’ disaster organizations

- Firefighting activities using portable fire pumps and standpipes
- Safety check-ups and assistance for those with special needs (elderly and disabled)
- Rescue and aid activities
- Operation of evacuation centers (hubs for school-based disaster prevention activities)
- Information-gathering and propagation

* On regular days, these organizations perform activities like disaster prevention drills. Non-Japanese people should also participate actively in drills and post-disaster activities!

Non-Japanese citizens

There are some individuals who, though they have the physical strength to act in disaster situations, experience certain problems that require special consideration in a disaster, such as:

- They may not know how to act in a foreign country.
- They cannot effectively communicate their need for help or the type of help required.

Citizens’ disaster organizations are prepared to offer assistance such as safety check-ups and evacuation support for any individual who has special needs in a disaster, including the elderly and disabled.

If you cannot adequately respond to a disaster situation alone or with just your family, ask for help from a neighbor or citizens’ disaster organization. In order to prepare for such an occasion, it is also important to foster close ties with the community in the course of daily life, by actively participating in disaster prevention drills and other events.

Finally, we ask that non-Japanese individuals who can participate in local disaster prevention activities without language problems or physical problems actively cooperate with citizens’ disaster organizations in their work.