

Preparing for Tsunami

In order to protect yourself from a tsunami it is necessary to prepare every day and be prepared to evacuate quickly. Tsunamis caused widespread damage in the March 11, 2011 Eastern Japan Earthquake. Shimane Prefecture has experienced damage from tsunamis in the past and, if there is another earthquake in the Sea of Japan, could experience another one. Learn about and prepare for a tsunami now!

The Eastern Japan Earthquake

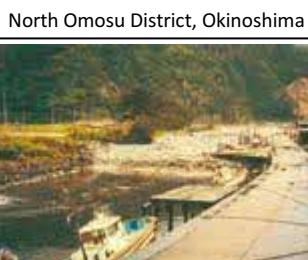


A tsunami breaking an embankment

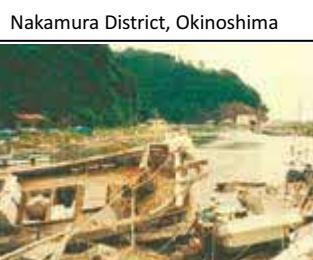
Photo: Tarō Town Fishing Cooperative, Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture

Previous Tsunamis in Shimane

Earthquakes in the Chubu Region



A tsunami running up a river



Tsunami-damaged boats

Hokkaido Earthquake



Tsunami-damaged boats

After the tsunami, caused by the May 1983 Mid-Japan Sea Earthquake off the coast of Akita Prefecture (magnitude 7.7), there was damage to roofs, boats and port facilities in the Oki Region and on the Shimane Peninsula.

Photos: Okinoshima Town

After the tsunami, caused by the July 1993 Southwest Hokkaido Earthquake (magnitude 7.8), there was roof and agricultural damage in the Oki Region and on the Shimane Peninsula.

Photo: Okinoshima Town

Escaping Tsunamis- Points to Follow?

When at the beach, evacuate the second you feel an earthquake

At the beach, whether you feel strong shaking, or only weak shaking over long period, there is a chance of a tsunami occurring.

Don't wait for a tsunami warning, get away from the beach as fast as possible and find a safe place.



Evacuate to Safety

It is important to evacuate to a safe location when a tsunami hits.

If there is no time, escape to the nearest high ground – don't feel you have to go too far.



Evacuate on Foot

Trying to escape by car can be disastrous if you hit traffic. Evacuate on foot, if possible.



Evacuate When There's a Warning

Tsunamis can strike even if the tremors you feel are small or you don't feel them. Evacuate when you hear a warning.



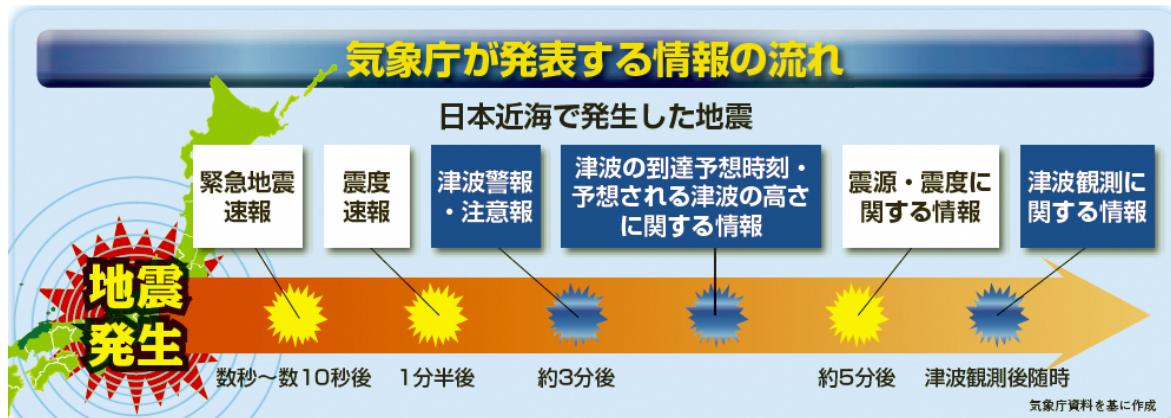
Tsunami Information

Pay Attention to the Meteorological Bureau's Warnings Following an Earthquake

Warning/Advisory Types	Predicted Tsunami Height		Phrases Used For Large Earthquakes	Things You Should Do
	With	(Height)		
Tall Tsunami Warning	Over	(10m < Height)	KYODAI (Mega)	People near the coast or rivers should immediately evacuate to a high location. Tsunamis come many times; please stay in a safe location until warnings have stopped. Make sure you evacuate to the highest point you can!
	10m	(5 < Height \leq 10m)		
	5m	(3m < Height \leq 5m)		
Tsunami Warning	3m	(1m < Height \leq 3m)	TAKAI (High)	People swimming in the ocean should immediately leave the water and everyone should stay away from the coast until the advisory ends.
Tsunami Advisory	1m	(0.2m < Height \leq 1m)	(None)	

※Tsunamis occurring after earthquakes with a magnitude of 8 or greater (a megathrust earthquake) are called **mega** or **tall**.

Tsunamis taller than the above may strike land. Please evacuate to the highest ground as you can find.



Getting Information

TV & Radio

Earthquake and tsunami information is broadcast on TV and radio. A portable radio can be used in a power-outage.



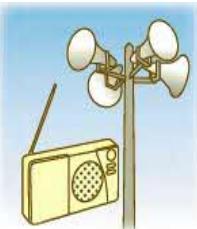
Mobile Phone

The Shimane Government and some municipalities send tsunami or earthquake information and forecasts to those who have pre-registered.



Government Wireless Warnings etc

Warnings and evacuation requests may be broadcast by municipalities using a wireless communication service.



Get Urgent Disaster Info Quicker!!

Get Info on Earthquakes and Tsunamis from the Shimane Disaster Mail!

If you register you can receive tsunami warnings, earthquake information, meteorological information, in real time on your mobile phone from the Metrological Bureau. (English)

Send an empty message to bousai-shimane-en@xpressmail.jp to receive a registration message. Click the links in there to register for the information you want to receive.

Rain, Earthquake
Tsunami



Special Features of Tsunamis

Tsunamis Arrive Quickly!

There are about 700km between Shimane Prefecture and the epicenter of the Mid-Japan Sea Earthquake, however, the tsunami hit the Shimane Coast one and a half hours after the main tremor. If an earthquake was to occur off the coast of Shimane Prefecture, depending on the location, a tsunami may strike land extremely quickly.



Tsunamis Contain Huge Amounts of Energy

Tsunamis are different from regular waves in that they form a single body from the ocean floor to the surface before striking land. Usually over 50cm, if they are over 1m tall, they can cause damage to homes.



Tsunamis Repeat Multiple Times

In some cases, multiple tsunamis can repeat for over 24 hours and the first wave is not necessarily the strongest.



Be Careful - Even Away from Beaches

Tsunamis can run up land and rivers. Even away from beaches, pay attention to tsunami warnings.



Prepare Now

Talk With Your Family

Decide in advance with your family how you'll escape from a tsunami – where to go, your route and contact method. How about putting everything on a poster displayed where everyone can see it so that the entire family can prepare?



Discuss Helping Others Evacuate

Discuss how you can help elderly people, disabled people, pregnant women, young children, and foreign residents from your region evacuate.



Disaster Prevention Training

Participate in local disaster training in your city, town, or village and be a leader in a real disaster.



Learn Where Tsunamis are Likely Where You Live

The Prefecture is surveying where tsunamis are most likely to land.
※Survey results will be published once known.



Prepare Emergency Goods

In case of disaster, prepare a pack of emergency goods that can be taken with you on the spot.

Examples of Important Goods:

- 3 days worth of food (Dry bread, canned goods, supplements, candy/chocolates, drinking water (about 3L per person per day))
- Evacuation items (flashlight, portable radio, batteries, helmet/headscarf)
- Emergency items (medication, band-aids, disinfectant, digestion medicine, constipation relievers, tampons)
- Lifestyle items (gloves, a can opener, a lighter/matches, a knife, portable toilet)
- Important items (Cash, 10 yen coins (for public phones), bank book, insurance papers, driver's license (copy), inkan/personal stamp)
- Clothing (Underwear/socks, long-sleeved tops, long pants, warm clothes, rain coats)



Information

Contact Information during a Disaster

In the event of an emergency, there are services to confirm your safety and location with friends and family.

How to use the Emergency Messaging Service (171)

Just dial '171' and follow the voice-guidance to record and playback your message.

How to Use the Emergency Message Board

From the front page of your mobile phone's Web Service Page, select 'Disaster Message Board' and register and confirm your message.

Shimane Prefecture Disaster Prevention Department Disaster & Crisis Management Division

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