

In preparation for a disaster

Make sure you participate in the drill and work together with your neighbors on disaster preparedness activities!

After a large earthquake, the sign to say "We are OK" The Yellow Cloth Strategy

In Minoh City, we are implementing the Yellow Cloth Strategy in order to quickly confirm people's safety. After a large earthquake, if everyone in your household is safe, place a yellow cloth (a bright yellow cloth that can be easily seen) near your entrance. In a disaster it's a sign to your neighborhood that you're OK. If there are no yellow cloths, we have to knock on every house to check that the occupants are alright. If yellow cloths are used, people's safety can be checked very quickly and more lives can be saved.



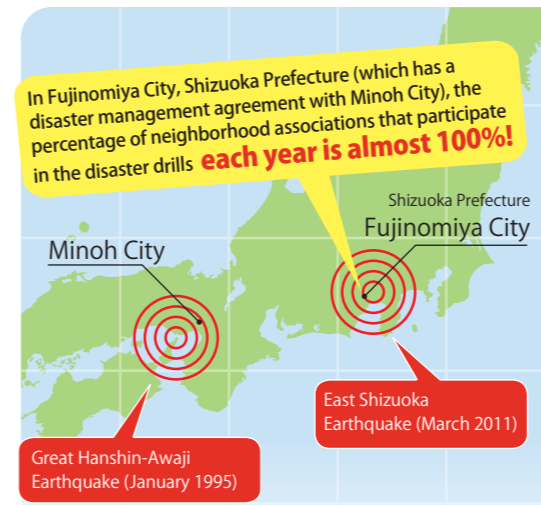
In this year's Citywide Disaster Drill

70% of the neighborhood associations participated *approx
*Neighborhood associations include apartment management associations.

On Monday 17 January, Minoh City ran the 10th annual Citywide Disaster Drill. This time it was on a weekday, but there were 233 neighborhood associations (approximately 70% total) that participated. Many people hung out yellow cloths or confirmed the safety of those around them. This is a result of participation in previous drills and other disaster prevention activities in the region, as well as the Northern Osaka Earthquake in June 2018. Thank you all for participating.

By participating in the Disaster Drill, you are helping to minimize harm in the event of a real earthquake!

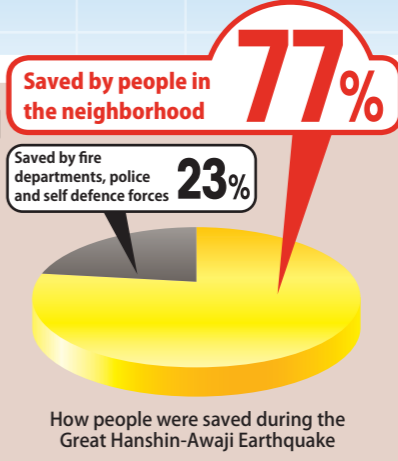
Even one more person participating in the drills and practicing checking on the safety of their neighbors could help to minimize harm in the event of a real earthquake. For example, due to the Nankai Megathrust Earthquake which is expected to occur in the near future, Fujinomiya City in Shizuoka Prefecture (which has a disaster management agreement with Minoh City) holds disaster drills twice a year. Nearly all of the neighborhood associations participate and practice checking on people's safety by using the Yellow Cloth Strategy.



As a result in Fujinomiya City
 In the March 2011 East Shizuoka Earthquake (intensity level (shindo) lower 6) there were **no deaths or heavily injured people!**
 There were zero deaths and only 33 people with minor injuries in the 15 March 2011 East Shizuoka Earthquake, despite having been the same size as the Niigata Chuetsu-oki Earthquake (15 deaths, 2,346 injured).
 Such numbers are the result of the use of the Yellow Cloth Strategy and people quickly checking on the safety of their neighbors.

And in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake...

Nearly 80% of the people who were saved were saved by community connections.
 It is impossible for public agencies to save everyone if an earthquake or other disaster strikes. In the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, only around 20% of the people rescued were saved by emergency services such as the fire department or the police. The other 80% were saved by neighborhood associations and through community connections.



We can save more lives by checking the safety of the people around us!

At each household

Let everyone know that your family is safe with a yellow cloth

If everyone in your household is safe, place a yellow cloth (a bright yellow cloth that can be easily seen) near your entrance. The cloth is a sign to your neighborhood that you're OK.



Essentials for every household!

Make sure you have 3 days of water and food supplies!

Water 9 liters x No. of people in household
 Each person needs 3 liters of drinking water per day
 (4 person household = 9 liters x 4 people)



Food Supply It's OK to use what you eat every day!
 Please store food that you can eat without cooking

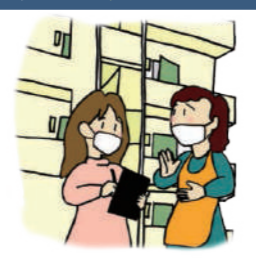


Always keep your fridge and pantry full!
 Buy lots of groceries, eat the oldest produce first and buy more as soon as you run out. Always keep a 'new' stockpile in your house.

At neighborhood associations

Check on the safety of your neighbors by using yellow cloths

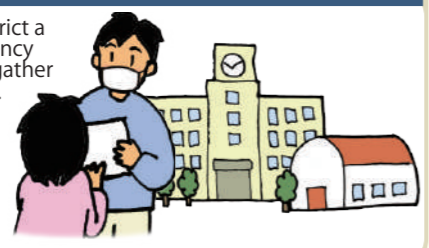
Based on your neighborhood's Safety Confirmation Task Sheet, the people responsible for checking on other's safety go and check on the safety of households in the neighborhood, looking for yellow cloths. A representative should then report the findings to an evacuation center.



At each elementary school district's evacuation center

Gather the safety check results from the neighborhood associations

At each elementary school district a member of the District Emergency Management Committee will gather the results of the safety checks.
 *Your evacuation center is the elementary school is your school district. (The exceptions are Maple Hall instead of Kita Elementary School, and Dai Ni Junior High School instead of Kayano Kita Elementary School)



Monday 17 Jan The District Emergency Management Committees held various drills at each elementary school district's evacuation center!*

*The drills were run with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) prevention measures in place.

In the Kita Elementary School District...
 We held a drill where we set up an evacuation center with the presence of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in mind. Cardboard and tent-style partitions were assembled to divide evacuation areas, and hygiene supplies (such as alcohol-based sanitizers) were set up. We also held an inspection of the disaster equipment and supplies (stored in emergency supply warehouses inside the local disaster response stations).



In the Toyokawa Kita Elementary School District...

In order to ensure children will be picked up after an earthquake, practice drills for caregivers to pick up their children were held. Caregivers were also invited to participate in the drill by confirming they have safely picked up their children. They were also taught how to use hand-cranked radios and manhole toilets among other items.



Next year's Citywide Disaster Drill is on Tuesday 17 January! Be sure to participate!