

**To prepare for a disaster** Make sure you join in the drill and work together with your neighbors for disaster preparation!

After a large earthquake, let everyone know you are safe with

## The Yellow Cloth Strategy

In Minoh City, we are using the Yellow Cloth Strategy to quickly check everyone is safe. After a large earthquake, if everyone in your house 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 the neighborhood that you're OK. If there are no yellow cloths, we have to knock on every house to check that everyone is alright. With the Yellow Cloth Strategy, safety checks can be run very quickly and more lives can be saved.



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

If everyone in your house 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.

**For Families**

Hang it in your mailbox

Or on your gate

Or from your balcony

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**Check on the safety of your neighbors by using yellow cloths**

Based on the "safety checklist", the people in charge run safety checks by looking for yellow cloths, then a representative reports the results to an evacuation center.

**For Neighborhood Associations**

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**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.

**For Elementary School District evacuation centers**

\*Your evacuation center is your nearest Elementary School (In the case of the Kita Elementary School District, it is Maple Hall. For the Kayano Kita Elementary School District, it is Dai Ni Junior High School.)

**This year on 17 January (Tuesday)** The District Emergency Management Committees held various drills at each Elementary School District evacuation center!

In the Toyokawa Minami Elementary School District... We held a drill where we set up an evacuation center with the presence of COVID-19 in mind. First, we set up 2 check-in counters, 1 at the evacuation center entrance and 1 inside the gym. These were structured so that visitors first get health checks (for fever, etc.), then go to the next counter for safety checks. We also set up cardboard and tent-style partitions so that the center was less crowded and also to prevent infection.

**District Emergency Management Committees...** Are organizations at the center of the community, that run disaster response work and evacuation centers in a disaster. They are in each of the city's 14 Elementary School Districts, run by each district's residents together with local welfare, youth, and neighborhood associations. The committee is split into multiple groups for different tasks:

- Opening and running evacuation centers
- Gathering safety check results handed into evacuation centers from neighborhood associations etc., finding out the level of damage
- Contacting the City Disaster Response Headquarters, sharing disaster information
- Going to give support to areas in need, relief work
- Checking the safety of elderly people living alone, people with physical disabilities, etc.

**The role of District Emergency Management Committees in a disaster**

In this year's Citywide Disaster Drill

# 70% of the neighborhood associations joined in

\*approx.

\*Neighborhood associations include apartment management associations.

On Tuesday 17 January, Minoh City ran the 11th annual Citywide Disaster Drill. This time it was on a weekday, but **240 neighborhood associations** (approx. 70% total) joined in. Many people ran safety checks by using the Yellow Cloth Strategy and calling out to others. This result is thanks to those who joined previous drills and other disaster prevention activities in the area, and also due to the impact of the 2018 Northern Osaka Earthquake and ongoing strong typhoons. Thank you all for joining in.

**By joining the Disaster Drill, you are helping to minimize harm in a real disaster!**

**If even 1 more person joins the drill and runs safety checks, this can help minimize harm in a real disaster.**

For example, Fujinomiya City in Shizuoka Prefecture (which has a disaster management agreement with Minoh City) holds disaster drills 2 times a year to prepare for the Nankai Megathrust Earthquake expected to occur in the near future. Nearly all of the neighborhood associations join and run safety checks 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 **0 deaths/heavily injured people!**

There were 0 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 using the Yellow Cloth Strategy and quick safety checks.

**In Fujinomiya City, Shizuoka Prefecture (which has a disaster management agreement with Minoh City), the percentage of neighborhood associations that join in the disaster drills each year is almost 100%!**

**Then in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake...**

**Nearly 80% of people 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.

**77%** Saved by people in the neighborhood

**23%** Saved by fire departments, police and self defence forces

How people were saved during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

**Next year's Citywide Disaster Drill is on Wednesday 17 January! Be sure to join in!**

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