

Every year on 17 January, we run a citywide disaster drill together!

In Minoh City, every year on 17 January (the date of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake), regardless of which day of the week, the whole city runs a citywide disaster drill.

Next year's drill is on a Wednesday! Please join in the drill from wherever you are in your designated role!

How to use the Yellow Cloth Strategy

Earthquake! Once the shaking ends...

FIRST Put on your shoes, inspect your house and **prepare for secondary disasters!**

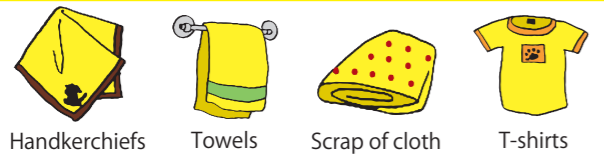
- 1** Wear your shoes inside the house
- 2** Secure an exit
Turn off gas
Turn off the electricity breaker
- 3** Check if **everyone** in your house is safe
- 4** Put things that might fall in an aftershock on the ground

NEXT If everyone is safe, put a yellow cloth outside your house!

After a big earthquake, if everyone in your house is safe please hang a yellow cloth (any eye catching large yellow piece of cloth) somewhere visible from outside.

This way, you are saying "No problem here!" to your neighbors!

Any eye catching big yellow piece of cloth is OK!



If we use the Yellow Cloth Strategy, the safety check process speeds up!
There's no need to knock on every door. We will know the situation with just a glance!

If we don't use the Yellow Cloth Strategy...

If you don't display a yellow cloth, each doorbell must be rung, because until someone inside responds we won't know if they are safe...



If safety checks take time, lives can't be saved!



Quick safety checks save lives!
A yellow cloth! Everything here is fine! Right, on to the next!

For quick safety checks, please make sure to have a large yellow cloth at every home!

In Minoh City we are using the Yellow Cloth Strategy to quickly check everyone is safe!

On 18 June 2018, an intensity level (shindo) lower 6 earthquake struck the northern region of Osaka Prefecture. Some of the buildings within Minoh City were partially destroyed along with other damage. In the confusion following the earthquake, neighborhood associations* started using the Yellow Cloth Strategy in order to quickly check people's safety. When it comes to saving lives in the event of a large scale disaster, it's very important to swiftly check people's safety so that you can quickly find the people who need help. In case another disaster strikes, please continue to use the Yellow Cloth Strategy.

*Neighborhood associations include apartment management associations.



Interview with the Minoh No.4 Neighborhood Association

Hiroshi Koizumi
Minoh No.4 Neighborhood Association President
The Minoh No.4 Neighborhood Association is a community of about 200 stand-alone households. We make safety checklists by dividing the households into 20 groups and run regular disaster drills using the "Yellow Cloth Strategy" so we can quickly check everyone is safe in a disaster. Every year on 17 January, we team up with the Kita Elementary School District Disaster Prevention Committee to practice the citywide disaster drill. We print information on yellow paper and hand it out, not only to neighborhood association members but to all households in the area. On the day of the drill, people can use this paper in the same way as a yellow cloth, so it is easy for anyone to join in.

Toshiaki Kakuyama
Minoh No.4 Disaster Preparation Association President
The Minoh No.4 Disaster Preparation Association covers an old neighborhood district with many elderly households. The area also has many hilly streets, including some Red Zone (landslide risk special warning area) areas. With this in mind, we created a list of people who need additional support (people who have difficulty evacuating by themselves, etc.). We keep this list updated so that we can use it to prioritize safety confirmation and evacuation support in a disaster. We also run inspection checks of local disaster response stations, hold lectures to raise awareness of disaster prevention, and check for dangerous/problem areas within the neighborhood association area to make sure that evacuations can be as safe as possible.

In the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

Close to 80% of people saved were saved due to local 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!

77% were saved by people in the neighborhood

23% were saved by the fire department, police and self defence forces



How people were saved in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

Please check the Yellow Cloth Strategy information on the left page!

Yellow Cloth Strategy!

In a disaster

Let everyone know you are safe with the