

Protect yourself and your family from natural disasters

Survival Passport

Chapter 153

In the Citywide Disaster Drill on 17 January 70% of the neighborhood associations joined in!

On Wednesday 17 January, Minoh City ran the 12th annual Citywide Disaster Drill. This time it was on a weekday, but 239 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 the Noto Peninsula Earthquake on 1 January this year. Thank you all for joining in.

The District Emergency Management Committees held various drills at each Elementary School District evacuation center!

In the Toyokawa Kita Elementary School District...

We held a disaster simulation safety drill where we set up manhole toilets, showed a disaster prevention video, and trained people to use emergency equipment such as power generators, floodlights, walkie-talkies, and hand-cranked radios. 5th graders also joined the drill and were told how to use the manhole toilets and how to use emergency equipment.



using power generators and other emergency equipment during the drill



setting up tent partitions during the drill

In the Saito no Oka Elementary School District...

We simulated the steps to gather and report safety check results from each school district area in a disaster. We also held a drill where we set up tent partitions and manhole toilets, and tested power generators. A 'handover drill' was also run to make sure that children at school are returned to their parents in the event of an earthquake. Caregivers were also given long-lasting emergency bread and encouraged to keep a stockpile at home.

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:

The role of District Emergency Management Committees in a disaster

- 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.



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

For example, in Fujinomiya City, Shizuoka Prefecture, the percentage of neighborhood associations that join in the disaster drills each year is almost 100%. In the March 2011 East Shizuoka Earthquake (intensity level (shindo) lower 6) there were no deaths or serious injuries, despite having been the same size as the Niigata Chuetsu-offshore earthquake (15 deaths, 2,346 injured). **If even 1 more person joins the drill and runs safety checks, this can help minimize harm in a real disaster.**

* Fujinomiya City in Shizuoka Prefecture has a disaster management agreement with Minoh City.

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