

Minoh City, Unified Campaign

Protect yourself and your family from natural disasters

Survival Passport

Series Special Issue

30 years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

What we can do now

Inquiries: Civil Defence Division TEL 072-724-6750 FAX 072-724-6376

Next 17 January, it will be 30 years since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred.

The earthquake, which registered as intensity level (shindo) 7 (magnitude 7.3), caused a lot of damage mainly in southern Hyogo Prefecture, where approximately 240,000 wooden houses and other structures were completely or partially destroyed.

More than 6,400 people died and more than 40,000 were injured.

In addition, essential utilities such as electricity, gas, and water were cut off over a wide area, and the transportation network was stopped because of damaged highways and railroads. This delayed the arrival of emergency supplies and many people had to live with limited resources.

The earthquake, which caused a lot of damage and grief, also provided an opportunity to rethink disaster prevention measures.

Please take this opportunity to reflect about that disaster and think about what you can do to protect yourself and your family from disasters, and put this into action.

In the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, about 90% of the deaths were caused by being crushed or suffocation. More than 6,400 people died, and 88% of them were crushed or suffocated by collapsing houses or falling furniture. More than 40,000 people were injured, with around 70% of them being injured by furniture, electric appliances and glass shards.

On the other hand, close to 80% of people saved were saved due to local connections

(Pie chart) How people were saved in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

77% were saved by people in the neighborhood

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

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.

Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

In Minoh City...

Damage in Minoh City

Deaths: 1 person (disaster-related)

Injured: 63 people

Houses completely destroyed: 8

Number of evacuations: 467 households, 886 people

At 5:46 a.m. on January 17 1995, when the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake struck, Minoh City shook with an intensity level 4, resulting in eight houses completely destroyed and concrete walls collapsed.

In addition, some lifelines were shut down, and 886 people in 467 households were evacuated to shelters.

Please start doing what you can do now to protect yourself and your family from disasters.

30 years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, there are many things we can do to protect yourself and your family your loved ones and yourself from disasters.

A huge earthquake could strike tomorrow.

Start now to prepare for the following

1. Remember what to do immediately after the earthquake early warning is sounded.

When the earthquake early warning sounds, “hide under a strong desk (where things will not fall or collapse)”. If there is no desk nearby, “use what is around to protect your head”.

When outdoors, be sure to remember to “move away from dangerous areas” such as concrete walls.

Hiding after the shaking starts is too late!

2. Secure your furniture to prevent it from falling over

When a large earthquake occurs, tableware and appliances on shelves fall off, and tall furniture falls over.

When at home, please rearrange the furniture in bedrooms because a lot of time is spent there, and the kitchen which is full of tableware and appliances. For furniture that is difficult to move, take necessary measures to make sure that it won't fall over, like attaching it to the wall with metal fittings.

(Illustration) Kitchen

Good example

Securing chain

Window glass safety film

Adhesive mat

Safety strap

Furniture wedges to prevent falling

L shaped bracket

Flat plate bracket

When it is difficult to secure furniture by yourself, please contact the Senior Citizen's Employment Center (TEL 072-723-8077).

Ask for “securing furniture” (charges apply)!

3. Start “preparing your household”

After a large earthquake, no outside assistance arrives for 3 days.

Store enough food and water for at least 3 days, so that you can last if gas, electricity, and water are cut off and supplies are unavailable.

Also, prepare an emergency bag and place it near your entrance in case you need to immediately evacuate.

Water: 9 liters x No. of people per 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 everyday!

Please store food that you can eat without cooking

Retort pouches (okayu, zosui, stew, etc.)

Canned, bottled food

4. Join a neighborhood association

In times of emergency, we can save more lives by checking the safety of the people around us!

In Minoh City, neighborhood associations run large-scale disaster safety checks.

In addition, neighborhood associations are the first to get essential utilities/supplies until services start again.

Call us right now!

Minoh City Office staff in charge of neighborhood associations Direct Line: 072-724-6179

Large earthquake!

Let everyone know you are safe with the Yellow Cloth Strategy

In a disaster, the people in charge run safety checks by looking for yellow cloths, using the safety checklists prepared in advance by neighborhood associations.

If there are no yellow cloths, we must knock on every house to see if everyone is alright, which takes time.

With the Yellow Cloth Strategy, we can run safety checks very quickly and save more lives.

If we use the Yellow Cloth Strategy, the safety check process speeds up!

A yellow cloth!

Everything here is fine

Right, on to the next!

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 Friday!

Please join in the drill from wherever you are in your designated role!