

# Introduction

Major earthquakes that have taken many precious lives, such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in January 1995 and the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, along with more recent events like the 2018 Northern Osaka Earthquake and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, have occurred. It is predicted that earthquakes in Tokai, Tonankai, and Nankai, or a huge earthquake that links those earthquakes through the Nankai Trough, will occur in the near future.

In addition to earthquakes, various other natural disasters such as typhoons and torrential rains have been occurring all over Japan in recent years, resulting in the loss of valuable lives and property. Now, more than ever, we must prepare for disasters.

In preparation for the unpredictable and diverse disasters such as earthquakes and torrential rains, Osaka City has taken various measures based on the Osaka City Regional Disaster Prevention Plan and the Osaka City Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Ordinance to protect the valuable lives, bodies, and property of our residents from disasters. We are striving to create a safe, disaster-resistant city.

From past earthquakes we have learned that it is very important to be focused on protecting our own lives and protecting our city by ourselves in the event of a disaster. The damage can be minimized if everyone works together right away by rescuing others, helping each other, and putting out fires even before the public service workers arrive on the scene.

For this reason, Osaka City's local communities have formed volunteer disaster prevention organizations, led by the local disaster prevention leaders. They hold workshops and seminars on how to prepare for disasters, conduct emergency drills, and other activities in order to enhance the community's abilities to defend against disasters.

Each resident must acquire the correct knowledge, before disaster strikes, about disaster preparedness and mitigation, the stockpiling of goods at home, and active participation in disaster prevention activities such as emergency drills conducted by volunteer disaster prevention organizations in your area.

In addition, disaster management plans must be put in place in each region, including evacuation procedures that fit the organizational structure, local circumstances, and disaster characteristics, and a safety confirmation system, in accordance with the drills and other disaster prevention activities led by volunteer disaster prevention organizations.

The City will not only provide support for and cooperation with disaster prevention activities conducted by the residents, businesses, and volunteer disaster prevention organizations, but will also implement various disaster prevention and mitigation initiatives.

No one can stop natural disasters, but we can minimize the damage through daily preparation and disaster drills.

We hope that this handbook will be useful and serve as a guide to protect your home and community from disasters.

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