

Other Disasters and Countermeasures



Earthquakes are not the only disasters that can strike Tokyo. Many various risks can be assumed, from natural disasters such as heavy rain, storms and torrential rain, to human threats such as terrorist and armed attacks. In this chapter, we have compiled knowledge on the various risks that lurk in Tokyo and measures to deal with them. Learn about them now so you can respond calmly.





Heavy Rain and Storms



Importance of preparing in advance for floods and strong winds

Stationary rain fronts in early summer and fall often cause heavy rainfall. In addition, over the past 30 years (1981-2010), there has been an average of 26 typhoons a year. If these typhoons approach or land on Tokyo, extremely strong winds and heavy rainfall could result in inundation and river flooding. You should always check the latest weather information and protect yourself from disasters. Confirm in advance what places are at high risk by checking the hazard map, etc.

Pay attention to the latest weather information



Advisory

The Meteorological Agency will issue advisories when there is the possibility of disasters occurring from heavy rainfall or strong winds, etc. Pay attention to evacuation preparation information announced by the municipalities. And, in districts that are easily affected by rain and wind, people who need special support in evacuating should be ready to move early.

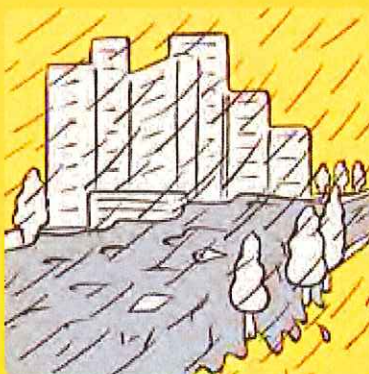
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Warning

Warnings are issued when there is the possibility of a major disaster occurring, with the relevant areas called upon to exercise caution. Pay attention to evacuation information issued by municipalities, and evacuate quickly if necessary.

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Emergency Warning

An emergency warning is issued when there is a heightening danger of a serious disaster of a scale that occurs only once every few decades, which will far exceed the criteria for issuing a warning. You should immediately move to a safe place.

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Weather conditions that require special caution



Spring - mid Summer (stationary front)

During the seasonal transition from spring to mid-summer, the stationary front (Baiu front) appears from Japan to near the Chinese continent. When the ground is weakened by the long rains brought by this front, heavy rainfall could easily trigger sediment disasters.

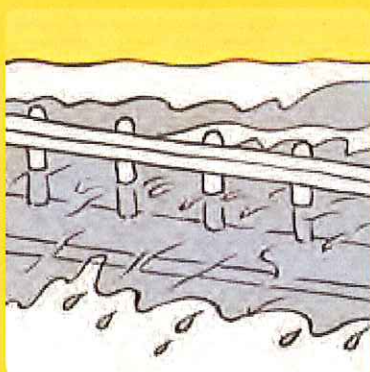
Summer - Fall (stationary front)

In the seasonal transition from summer to fall, pressure patterns become similar to the Baiu front, with the stationary front appearing near Japan bringing about long or heavy rainfall that can result in road flooding and other incidents.



July - October (typhoon)

The number of typhoons approaching or landing in Tokyo increases in the period from July to October, making it necessary to be cautious of heavy rainfall and strong winds. For example, Typhoon No. 15 in 2011 caused roadside trees in Shibuya and Ginza to fall over, and affected commuters by stopping train operations.



Storm surge (coastal areas)

Tokyo is located at the innermost part of Tokyo Bay. Because the mouth of the bay is located on the southwestern side, and because the water is relatively shallow, Tokyo is very susceptible to storm surge damage. Other than storm surge due to typhoons, you should also beware of tsunamis generated by earthquakes.

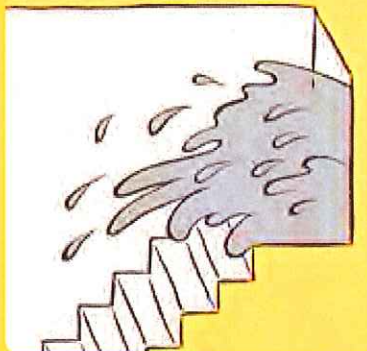


Places requiring special caution



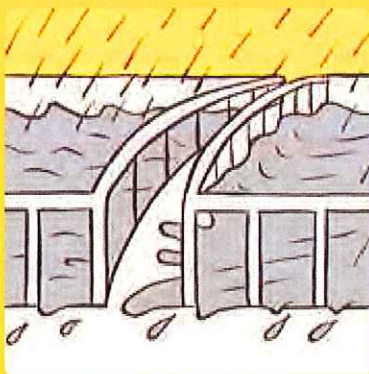
Lowlands

The lowlands have the risk of flooding from heavy rainfall. Caution is necessary because it could become difficult to see the location of gutters, etc.



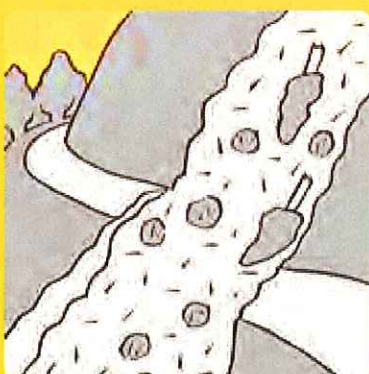
Basements and semi-basements

Buildings that have basements or semi-basements, or are located on land that is lower than the road, are inclined to have more flooding damage due to torrential rainfall. Prepare sandbags, water stops and other items to prevent flooding, and evacuate before you feel endangered.



Rivers

Do not approach rivers as they have the risk of overflowing from heavy rainfall. If you live along a river, listen to local disaster information, etc., and be prepared to evacuate immediately.



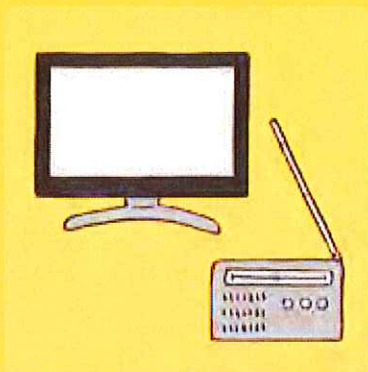
Mountainous areas

In areas near cliffs and mountainous areas, beware of sediment disasters. Even if no warning has been issued, if you see the signs of a sediment disaster, secure your safety and evacuate.

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Protect yourself from wind and flood damages



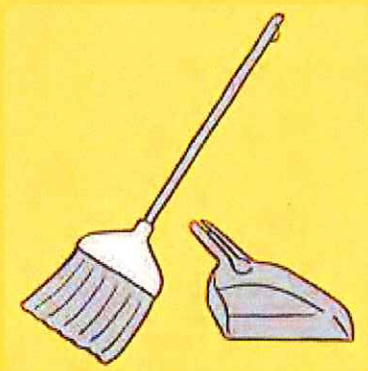
Listen to information issued by the authorities

The Meteorological Agency and local governments issue disaster information over the TV, radio, and other media, and the municipalities use the wireless emergency alert system to issue evacuation advisories and orders. When your local government has issued evacuation information, secure your safety and evacuate.



Know the location of places at risk of flooding

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has released a map showing districts at risk of flooding to let everyone know the risk of flood from typhoons, etc., so they can prepare for floods and quickly evacuate. Make it a habit to confirm what places are susceptible to flooding.



Check and clean drainage facilities

Trash, etc., accumulating in catch basins and gutters prevent rainwater from flowing and increase the risk of flooding. In basements and semi-basements, there is also the risk of flooding if drainage pumps malfunction. Make it a point to routinely check and clean the drainage facilities.



Simple ways to prevent flooding

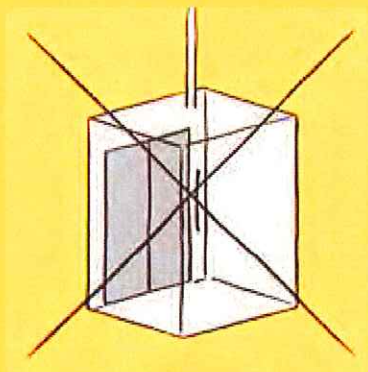
Use sandbags, water bags, and water stops to prepare for flooding. You can also align simple water bags, in which garbage bags are half filled with water, or use a long plank as a water stop, to prevent flooding.





Wait until the typhoon passes

If you are outside when a typhoon is approaching, wait inside a nearby facility until it passes. If you are at home, refrain from going out. It will also be dangerous to go out to repair roofs or windows.



Don't use the elevator

If strong winds cut power lines, the resulting power failure could trap you in the elevator. Use the stairs to all possible extent in the event of a typhoon or heavy rainfall.



Evacuate before water comes up to your knees

Water up to your knees can be considered a yardstick for how high water can come before it becomes difficult to walk in a flood. And even though the water may not be that deep, as there is also the danger of being unable to move due to a strong flow of water, when you see water flowing in, evacuate immediately to a high place.



Evacuate from underground to a higher place

Evacuation could become difficult if water flows into levels underground due to flooding above ground. Go to a designated evacuation area or go to the ground level and evacuate to a sturdy building nearby that is at least two stories high. In this way, evacuate to a safer place.

