



Here are our Mascots.

Future from Fukushima! Kibitan" is our mascot that symbolizes reconstruction of Fukushima. "Bekotaro" is the Fukushima Map Navigator. These two mascots guide you through the Sonafuku Handbook.





Kibitan is named after Kibitaki (Ficedula narcissina), or narcissus flycatcher in English, which is the bird of Fukushima prefecture. He is actively working in and out of the prefecture as a bridge linking citizens and Fukushima. He provides information on "what is great about Fukushima and what is happening now in Fukushima" through his antenna on his head. Serious Kibitan explains the major points of the Handbook in an easy-to-understand manner.





Bekotaro is created based on "Akabeko," a traditional papier-mâché toy shaped like a red cow, unique to the Aizu area in Fukushima. Bekotaro is the mascot for the prefecture's general information magazine "Fukushima Map." Enjoying growing popularity among citizens, Bekotaro is a merry character who tends to be easily flattered. Bekotaro plays the main character in the Handbook and teaches important things in the event of a disaster.

Be Prepared

The first thing to remember about disasters is to be prepared. Let's think about how to protect ourselves in the event of a disaster on a daily basis and talk about it with your family and community members.



Masao Uchibori Governor, Fukushima Prefecture



This information is also available on the prefecture's website.





Check with Learning Your Family Members.



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How to communicate

Confirm ways to communicate with your family members, such as the emergency call message service (p.34), SNS and message boards in shelters, other than telephone and e-mail.



Assume a variety of disasters and imagine what could happen. Prioritize places of gathering or shelter, choose about three, and visit them for confirmation.







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Determine what each family member should do in advance, such as check for the source of a fire, prepare a disaster kit, prevent furniture from falling, and check the safety and whereabouts of your relatives and neighbors.









Protect yourself by avoiding things that fall from a high place or fall down on you. To do this, always keep things in order and secure a safe place.



Don't place big furniture near doors.



Don't place big furniture along the evacuation route.



Ensure that nothing will fall on your bed.



Don't place sofas against glass windows.





Mutual Help is Important.

In the event of a major disaster, both "self-help," which is keeping you and your family members safe, and "mutual help," which is cooperation of you and your neighbors to help as many people as possible, are important.



Disaster Management Network with Neighbors

Cooperation of neighboring residents is necessary in the event of a disaster. You need to say hello to each other and get to know as many neighbors as possible on a daily basis.

You also need to be conscious that "We protect our town by ourselves" and work together with your neighbors through the residents' association or community association. These activities will enhance your community's disaster resilience.





Consider Those

Who Need

Assistance.

There are a variety of ways to be considerate of others.

People who need assistance include elderly people, children, and people with disabilities. Let's be considerate of these people who feel more concern than others and think about helping them.



Some elderly people cannot express what they want even though they have problems. Let's talk to them merrily and often.



It is necessary to particularly consider the health and privacy of pregnant women and mothers soon after delivery.



Children tend to feel more stress than adults imagine in the event of a disaster.

Let them play to release their pent-up stress.



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People with disabilities cannot easily cope with disaster situations by themselves. Let's talk to them kindly and help them.



It is often the case that somebody needs to take care of people requiring nursing care and that medical service arrangements may also be necessary for them.



Let's talk with them using simple language such as "stop" or "go," pointing, or gestures to guide them to a safe place and ensure their safety.







Participate

in Disaster

Drills

Let's participate in local disaster drills.

It is important to participate in local disaster drills frequently so you can feel calm in the event of a disaster and act to minimize damage. Drills may be held by the area or large drills may be held by the municipality or prefecture.







👾 Let's Join ShakeOut Drill.

ShakeOut drill is a type of earthquake drill in which you act to protect yourself in the event of an earthquake. It is composed of three actions: Drop, Protect your head, and Hold on. While you practice these actions, let's review emergency actions and disaster kits and check safety actions to prevent you from getting injured when alone or at your community, school, or workplace.



What is ShakeOut? This is a phrase that symbolizes the shout for safe action or "Get ready for the earthquake!"





When an

Earthquake

Disaster Occurs

It is extremely difficult to do many things simultaneously or make appropriate judgment in the moment a big earthquake occurs. Just start making preparations by thinking "There is nothing you can do."

What you can do from your hearing an Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) to its actual occurrence

It is from about a few seconds to a dozen or so seconds from when you receive an EEW to when the earthquake actually occurs. While it is important to always imagine what you can do in the moment of such an emergency, the first think you should do is to stay calm and move to a safer place.





Close the curtains to protect yourself from scattered pieces of broken window glass. Don't think of doing everything you think is necessary. This is also part of disaster preparedness.





What you must do



Quickly move to a safer place.



Quakes of a seismic intensity of 4 or higher continued for 190 seconds in Onahama, Iwaki city, when the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred (at 14:46, March 11, 2011) (source: Meteorological Agency).



🔆 Evacuation during Earthquak Disaster

Stay Calm When You Make a Judgment About Evacuation.

Your life could be on the line when you make a judgment about evacuation. Check reliable information and make a judgment calmly.



Beware of false information.

When a big earthquake occurs, false information without any reliable grounds may spread and confuse people. Check disaster information from reliable and multiple sources such as TV, radio and the administration and do not be confused by false information.





Check the condition of your family members.

In the event of a disaster, you may not realize you are bleeding from your hand or leg or somebody else is injured. When a major earthquake occurs while you are at home, you and your family members should examine each other to check if you are okay or if your house is in danger or not and judge what action to take next.





Stay in a safe place.

Immediately after the occurrence of a major earthquake, confusion and congestion will be everywhere including roads and areas around railroad stations, and you may be involved in a secondary disaster such as the collapse of a building. If you are sure the place you are in is safe, such as at an office or school, do not hurriedly decide to return home but stay there for a while to check how things are going.



When a major earthquake occurred in Kumamoto (21:26, April 14, 2016, with a seismic intensity of 7 recorded at Mashiki town), another major earthquake of similar intensity occurred 28 hours later (seismic intensity of 7 at Mashiki town).

🦞 Cautions about Evacuation after Earthquake



Mutual help among neighbors is important. Mutually check on each other to see if somebody is locked in, buried, or injured.



Avoid placing a message to a family member or a notice showing the shelter location on the outside of the door. If a home is declared to be empty, it will beckon sneaky thieves.



At night time, visibility is poor, and there are a lot of risks, such as tumbling on the ground or falling into a side gutter. During a power outage, evacuate while watching your step with a flashlight.



After a major earthquake, debris and many other things are scattered over the ground to create poor footing. To protect your feet or shoes, attach something hard like a wooden board under your sole, and firmly tie it to your shoes with strings to guard your feet.



When the power goes back on after an earthquake, a fire may occur once the power

is on if the breaker is kept on. When you evacuate, turn off the breaker.



After a major earthquake, aftershocks will occur. If your house is not safe in terms of seismic resistance, take shelter at a safe place before an aftershock comes.



Running Away from a Tsunami

A tsunami can hit your place less than 5 minutes after an earthquake. When you feel a strong quake near the sea, run up to a higher place on the landside. Tsunamis also run up the river, so run away from rivers, too.



Evacuate to a higher place!



When you cannot choose horizontal evacuation or going out is dangerous, move to a higher place. A tsunami with an inundation height (height from the ground to the water surface) of nearly 10m hit the coast from Sendai city to Soma city in Fukushima prefecture, at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake.