

# There's Been an Earthquake !

Japan is a country prone to many earthquakes. In fact, about 10% of earthquakes that are recorded around the world happen in Japan. It's very important that you prepare in advance for an earthquake by doing things such as preparing an evacuation plan with your family. In order to help prepare you for an earthquake, we will be introducing both evacuation centers and evacuation shelters in Okaya City. Please take note of where your nearest evacuation center or shelter is located.



**Earthquake!**

## Don't Panic and Stay Calm !!

### First, Protect Yourself

If you think an Earthquake is happening, or if you feel your environment shaking, first get underneath something sturdy like a table or desk. If you can, cover your head with a blanket or pillow for extra protection. It is very important to first protect yourself before doing anything else. Even if you are outdoors during an earthquake, protect your head by covering it with your bag and getting away from potentially dangerous landmarks such as concrete-block walls, utility poles, electric cables, etc.

#### If you happen to be using an open flame...

Even if there is only minimal shaking, turn off the source of the flame. Earthquakes are scary, but so are fires caused by earthquakes. However, when the tremors are so intense you cannot move, places like your kitchen are very dangerous. Your first priority is to protect yourself while moving away from dangerous items.

If you are able to, cut off the gas main, but do not turn off the power to electrical appliances. Should you have to evacuate in the event of a big earthquake, turn off the breaker before leaving.

#### Open doors and windows

In the event of a major earthquake, doors can become warped or stuck and you may not be able to open them. It's important to remember to open doors and windows to secure a way out.

#### Put on shoes

There may be broken items from in your kitchen or glass from windows. Put on a pair of shoes or slippers to protect your feet if you can.

#### If you evacuate

Wear a hat or helmet. If you are able to take evacuation goods with you, put all the items into a bag or rucksack to keep your hands free.

#### Listen to reliable sources of information

In times of disaster, radio outlets provide the best sources of information. Take the time to add a radio (a battery-operated model is best) to your evacuation kit.

# Evacuation

During the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, orders for residents to take refuge in their nearest evacuation centers were issued. However, there were some people who mistakenly headed to evacuation shelters and sadly got caught up in the tsunami and lost their lives. The words “evacuation center” and “evacuation shelter” look very similar, but they are actually very different in practice. This is how they are different.

**Evacuation Centers** ...(*hinan basho*・ひなんばしょ・避難場所) A location you evacuate to for safety when a disaster happens or when there is fear that a disaster might happen.

**Evacuation Shelters** ...(*hinan jo*・ひなんじょ・避難所) This is a place that you can use for a fixed amount of time to complete domestic chores when a disaster prevents you from being able to do them at home. These facilities will be equipped with drinking water and toilets.

You never know when a disaster will occur. However, you *can* confirm where your nearest evacuation center and evacuation shelter is before a disaster. Plan a route to your local evacuation center so that you can quickly get there should a disaster happen in your area. The school campus closest to you will serve as your evacuation center. Your evacuation shelter is designated as such by an “evacuation shelter” sign and will be located in your community.

## Evacuation Centers in Okaya City

Shinmei Elementary School
Oikawa Elementary School
Okaya Tanaka Elementary School
Minato Elementary School
Kawagishi Elementary School
Osachi Elementary School
Uenohara Elementary School
Hokubu Junior High School
Nanbu Junior High School
Tōbu Junior High School
Seibu Junior High School

District	Evacuation Facility Name (Evacuation Shelter)	Designated Place
Imai	Imaiku Community Center	Auditorium
	Imai Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
	Shinmei Elementary School	Gymnasium
	Shinmei Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
Mashita	Mashitaku Civil Center	Main Hall
	Okaya City Baseball Field	Conference Room
Okaya	Okayaku Community Center	Main Hall
	Narita Hoikuen	Rhythm Room

District	Evacuation Facility Name (Evacuation Shelter)	Designated Place
Shimohama	Shimohamaku Civic Center	Assembly Room
	Workers Hall	Lecture Hall
	Okaya City Civil Gymnasium	Gymnasium
	Ayame Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
	Kooguchi	Kooguchiku Community Center
Kamihama	Kamihama Community Center	Main Hall
	Okaya Tanaka Elementary School	Gymnasium

# ...And Evacuation

Area	Evacuation Facility Name (Evacuation Shelter)	Designated Place
Arayashiki	Arayashiki Public Hall	Assembly Hall
Oguchi	Oguchiku Civic Center	Auditorium
	Oguchi Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
Oikawa	Oikawaku Civic Center	Main Hall
	Wakakusa Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
	Oikawa Elementary School	Gymnasium
	Hokubu Junior High School	Gymnasium
Nishibori	Nishiboriku Community Center	Main Hall
	Nishibori Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
Osaka	Osaka Community Center	Assembly Hall
Hanaoka	Hanaokaku Civic Center	Main Hall
	Minato Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
	Minato Elementary School	Gymnasium
	Nanbu Junior High School	Gymnasium
	Minato Community Center	Main Hall
Yokokawa	Yokokawa Municipal Hall	Main Hall
	Yokokawa Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
	Unenohara Elementary School	Gymnasium

Area	Evacuation Facility Name (Evacuation Shelter)	Designated Place
Misawa	Misawaku Community Facility	Main Hall
	Tsurumine Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
	Kawagishi Elementary School	Gymnasium
	Seibu Junior High School	Gymnasium
Arakura	Arakuraku Town Hall	Main Hall
	Kawagishi Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
	Natsuake Hoikuen	Play Room
	Kawagishi Community Center	Main Hall
Komazawa	Komazawa Community Center	Main Hall
Ayuzawa	Ayuzawaku Community Center	Main Hall
Hashibara	Hashibaraku Community Center	Main Hall
Higashibori	Shibamiya Hall	Main Hall
	Osachi Elementary School	Gymnasium
	Tōbu Junior High School	Gymnasium
	Osachi Community Center	Main Hall
Nakaya	Nakayaku Community Center	Assembly Hall
	Osachi Hoikuen	Rhythm Room
Nakamura	Nakamuraku Civic Center	Assembly Hall