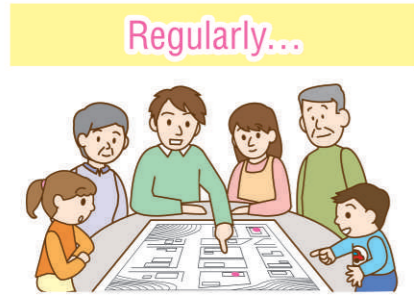


● Decide together and evacuate together

Even if there are warnings to evacuate, people tend to hesitate to do so on their own. Planning an evacuation strategy in advance will make it easier to decide when to evacuate.



Regularly...



Work together to identify those who cannot evacuate by themselves



When the time comes...

Let's all evacuate!

Decide together on where to evacuate to and the circumstances that would trigger an evacuation

● It's important to hold hands and help each other

Actively participate in neighborhood association activities to build relationships where you can greet your neighbors and other community members.

For example...

Call out to each other and evacuate early together



Column

● Everyone in the neighborhood knows each other Sanjo City Man in his 60s City hall employee

I live in a small hamlet with 26 households located in the mountainous area of Sanjo City. It's a lovely place with plenty of nature, even though snow piles up quite a bit every winter. There's a river nearby, but since it's deep, we've always thought we'd never have to worry about flooding.

However, on July 29, 2011, the rain was unusually heavy. Sensing something was amiss, I began patrolling the village with the neighborhood association president. The evacuation advisory was issued immediately afterward. Recognizing that it takes longer for the elderly and others to evacuate, we took the initiative in preparing for evacuation. I think it was precisely because it was a small community that everyone knew each other, was aware of who had difficulty evacuating, and was able to share information. We carried out the evacuation in an orderly manner and worked together.

Although there were evacuation shelters designated by the city of Sanjo, we independently designated the community center in our village as our final evacuation shelter. Since the city-designated evacuation shelters are located some distance away, we determined that getting there would be difficult, especially for the elderly.

Since we acted quickly, those who still had the energy worked together after evacuating to clear the roads and direct traffic. We even had time to go to the neighboring village to help with the rescue efforts. I believe that the reason we were able to act so smoothly is due to our daily interactions with our neighbors and the well-organized activities of our residents' association.



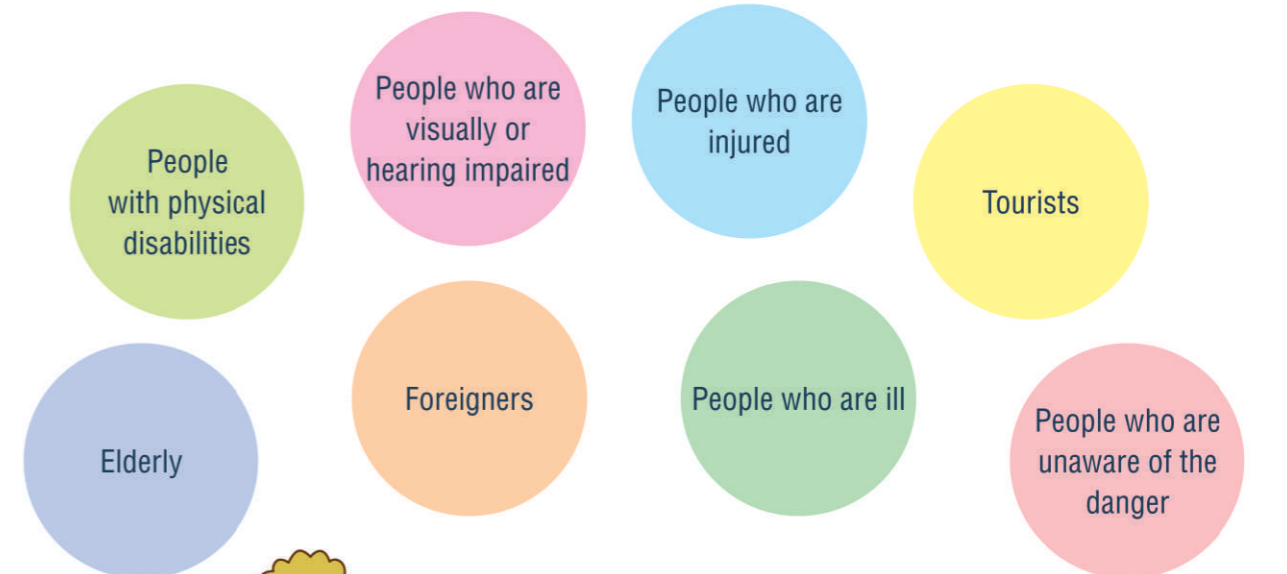
Source: From the Cabinet Office website, "The Day Before Project: Heavy Rain in Sanjo City (July 2004 and 2011)"

● When the time comes, you can count on the power of the community

Many people believe and expect that the government bears much of the responsibility for disaster response. However, in many cases, actual disasters are caused by external forces that exceed even the government's predictions. It is impossible to fully protect every aspect of our daily lives from such natural disasters. That said, the government has not abandoned its disaster response efforts (i.e., public assistance). Fukuroi City is doing everything in its power to prepare for any unforeseen circumstances.

We would also like to remind all residents that, in situations where government measures alone cannot fully protect them, the only option is to take responsibility for their own safety through self-reliance. In addition, it is important for local communities to assist individuals who are unable to manage on their own and require support (i.e., mutual aid) in evacuating during disasters.

As past disasters have shown, it is the strength of the local community that we can count on in times of crisis. In the event of a disaster, we ask for your cooperation in checking on the safety of vulnerable individuals and assisting with their evacuation and support through community mutual aid.



There are people who need your help.

Participating in Evacuation Drills

● Participating in community disaster preparedness activities

Community-wide disaster preparedness measures

A community-based disaster preparedness group is an organization that carries out disaster preparedness activities while valuing the personal connections with neighbors: those living next door and in the three houses on either side. We are working to protect our town ourselves. These groups work to protect their own town themselves. Most areas have voluntary disaster preparedness organizations that also serve as neighborhood associations.

Major voluntary disaster preparedness activities during normal times

Promoting disaster preparedness knowledge

- Create a local hazard map
- Run events such as disaster preparedness seminars
- Inspect disaster preparedness facilities



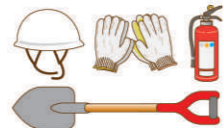
Disaster preparedness patrols and inspections

- Identify hazardous areas on hazard maps
- Inspect the condition of flammable materials left unattended
- Inspect items prone to falling over, such as concrete block walls, stone walls, signs, and vending machines



Maintenance and management of disaster prevention equipment and supplies

- Maintain and manage rescue tools and disaster prevention equipment, such as helmets, fire extinguishers, stretchers, hammers, crowbars, floodlights, and generators
- Manage emergency supplies, such as food and first-aid supplies



Run disaster preparedness drills

- Basic firefighting training
- Rescue and first aid training
- Evacuation drills
- Information gathering and communication training
- Emergency kitchen drills
- Emergency shelter management drills



Main community-led disaster preparedness activities in emergencies

Check on people's well-being

- Check on the safety of local residents, including those requiring special care



Basic firefighting efforts

- Basic firefighting efforts using fire extinguishers and bucket brigades

Rescue activities

- Rescue and relief operations for people trapped under debris, such as injured individuals or collapsed buildings



Operation of evacuation shelters

- Check the status of evacuation shelters
- Evacuee guidance and reception
- Assign housing and duties to evacuees
- Transport and distribute emergency food supplies and relief goods to evacuation shelters
- Distribute meals
- Secure water
- Clean toilets
- Remove and store trash
- Clean the facility
- Infectious disease prevention measures



Rescue activities

- First aid for the injured; transport to a medical station



Collect and disseminate information

- Gather and disseminate accurate information about disasters



City initiatives related to the activities of community-based disaster preparedness organizations (as of March 2025)

Grants for community-based disaster preparedness initiatives

The city provides grants to cover the costs of purchasing disaster preparedness equipment and supplies for community-based disaster preparedness organizations. More details are provided at the meeting of volunteer (union) disaster preparedness team leaders.

Training sessions for leaders of community-based disaster preparedness organizations

This program is open to everyone, including leaders of local disaster preparedness organizations, and is designed to help participants gain disaster prevention knowledge and skills, raise awareness of disaster preparedness, and improve their ability to take action in the event of a disaster.

Fukuroi City Volunteer Fire Department

Volunteer fire departments play a vital role not only in firefighting but also in rescue and relief operations during large-scale disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters, that require the mobilization of large numbers of personnel, as well as in guiding evacuees to safety. There are 15 volunteer fire brigades in the city that carry out community-based activities, such as patrols and special surveillance, serving as the backbone of the community's disaster preparedness.

