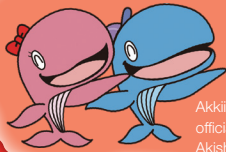


# Disaster Preparedness Guidebook

Prepare for disasters, both individually and community-wide!  
Disaster preparedness guidelines of Akishima City

AKISHIMA CITY



Akki & Airan,  
official mascots of  
Akishima City



## Introduction

### Recent trends and future risk of natural disasters in Akishima City

Experts predict a 70% probability of a large-scale inland earthquake in the southern Kanto region within 30 years. In addition, Akishima City is at risk of being hit by an earthquake with a seismic intensity of 7 (on the Japanese scale) occurring along the Tachikawa Fault Zone, which makes it vital that citizens prepare for earthquakes.

Preparing for floods is another important part of disaster risk management since typhoons are becoming more powerful recently, such as the 2019 East Japan Typhoon. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown the importance of including measures to control new infectious diseases in natural disaster response plans. Therefore, each person needs to be aware of the importance of preparing for a large-scale disaster that could occur at any time.

#### How to use this guidebook

This guidebook is an English translation of the summary of the Japanese Disaster Preparedness Guidebook distributed to all households in Akishima City in February 2022.

Please identify disaster risks in your neighborhood by checking the Akishima City Flood and Landslide Hazard Map and the Akishima City Internal Water Disaster Hazard Map distributed to all households in the city in June 2020 and February 2022, respectively. Please use this guidebook effectively to prepare for disasters, such as making your home more disaster-resistant, keeping stocks of emergency supplies at home, and checking the locations of evacuation shelters, and make sure you know what action to take in an emergency with a correct understanding of local disaster risks.



### Message to citizens

**Shinsuke Usui**  
Mayor of Akishima City

In recent years, Japan has suffered extensive damage from training rainstorms, typhoons and landslides in almost every flood season.

With the Tama River to the south and the Zanbori River to the east, Akishima City enjoys beautiful river banks and a green environment, but this also brings the risk of natural disasters. When Akishima City was hit by the 2019 East Japan Typhoon, for example, the city's public facilities along the Tama River were damaged and evacuation shelters were opened in 26 locations around the city, accommodating 1,137 evacuees. Following this typhoon, the national government amended the Basic Act on Disaster Management on May 2021, consolidating "Evacuation Recommendations (*hinan kankoku*)" and "Evacuation Instruction (emergency) (*hinan shiji*) (*kinkyu*)" into a single "Evacuation Instruction (*hinan shiji*)."


However, the city's efforts alone cannot protect citizens' lives and property from huge earthquakes and extreme climate events that could strike at any time. I therefore urge each citizen to prepare for emergencies.

This Akishima City Disaster Preparedness Guidebook lists disasters that could occur in our city and explains how to prepare for disasters and how to respond in an emergency. Please keep this guidebook in a handy place and read it from time to time to help you identify disaster risks in your neighborhood and take appropriate action when a disaster strikes.

# 【 Sources of evacuation information 】

In the event of an earthquake, typhoon, heavy rain or other natural disaster, you can get information on the disaster situation and evacuation from the official website of Akishima City as well as the following sources.

## ● Official website of Akishima City

In the event of a disaster, the municipal government will post information relating to evacuation and the availability of evacuation shelters on its official website. To access this information from a PC, select “Foreign Language” at the top of the first page of the website; from a smartphone, select “Foreign Language” by clicking  on the lower part of the first page.

<https://www.city.akishima.lg.jp/>

Check the information provided by Akishima City!



## ● Emergency alert email (*kinkyu sokuho mail*)

Emergency information such as an earthquake early warning and evacuation information will be sent to your mobile phone in the event of a disaster. This service is called “emergency alert email (*kinkyu sokuho mail*),” “area email” or by another name depending on your mobile phone carrier. (This service does not require prior registration, but you should make sure your mobile phone is enabled to receive the service.)

## ● Disaster information for foreign residents

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and various other agencies offer a range of disaster information to foreign residents. To access the information provided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, please select a language from the top of the following website (Disaster Prevention Information site for foreign residents).

<https://www.bousai.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/link/1000044/1005956.html>

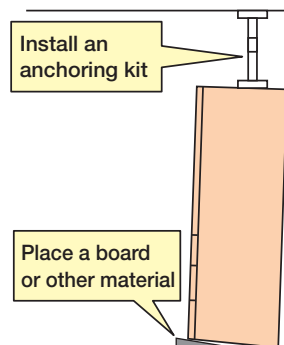


# 【 Regularly prepare for disasters 】

Disasters can strike at any time. Prepare for disasters on a routine basis, such as by making your home more disaster-resistant and keeping stocks of emergency supplies at home.

## Make your home more earthquake-resistant

Furniture falling over and damage to housing structures can cause fatalities and injuries. You can help prevent such risks by taking measures in advance, such as ensuring indoor safety by securing furniture to the walls or ceiling using anchoring kits such as anti-falling brackets. It is also recommended to have the seismic resistance of your home checked and, if necessary, to retrofit the home for seismic upgrading, and to reinforce block walls and gateposts to make the exterior of your home safer.



## Make your home more storm- and flood-resistant

It is also important to prepare for storms and floods caused by large-scale typhoons. Here are some things you can do at home to avoid such damage.

- 1 When a typhoon is approaching, move flowerpots, laundry poles and other items outdoors to a safe place to prevent them from being blown away.
- 2 Periodically remove debris and mud from ditches so that water can flow easily.
- 3 If the veranda or windows have no shutters, apply tape to the glass to prevent it from shattering and scattering.
- 4 Move items from the deck or balcony into the house.

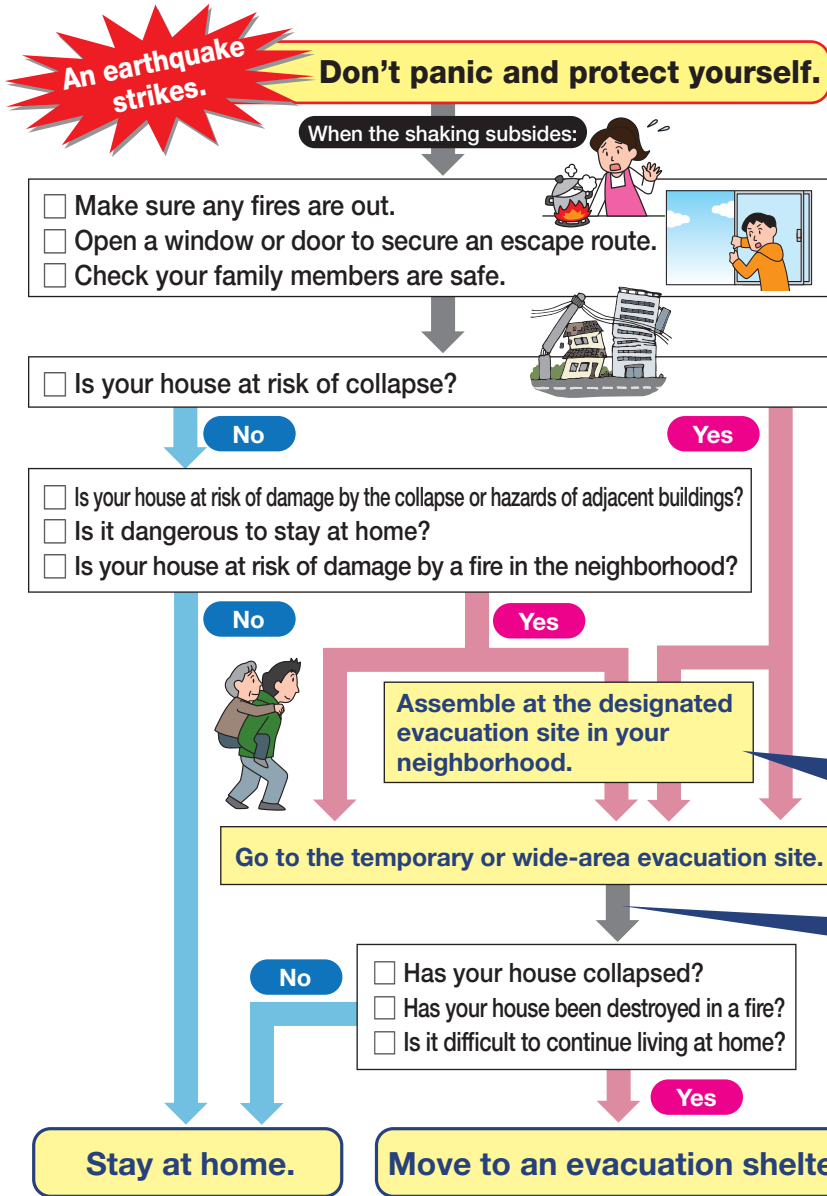
# 【 Keep a “rolling stock” 】

Keep a stock of more foods and daily supplies than you regularly consume to prepare for a large-scale earthquake, such as a Tokyo Metropolitan inland earthquake. Specifically, purchase a few more foods and daily supplies such as rice, vacuum-packed foods, water and toilet paper than you regularly use, replace the old items with new ones from time to time, and use up the old stock, to prepare for emergencies.



# What to do when an earthquake strikes and how to evacuate

When a large earthquake strikes, take action and evacuate as shown in the flowchart.



For information on your local evacuation site and shelter, read the "Hazard Map" section below.

**Evacuation site**

An evacuation site is a place to which you can temporarily evacuate to protect your life, when it is no longer safe to stay at your home after an earthquake because the building has collapsed or there is some other hazard. There are two types of evacuation site: temporary and wide-area. Open spaces such as school grounds are used as evacuation sites.

**Evacuation shelter**

An evacuation shelter is a place where you can stay for some time if you have lost your home due to an earthquake, fire or other disaster. Public facilities such as elementary and junior high schools and municipal halls are turned into evacuation shelters.

Check the safety of your neighbors if possible.

If the safety of the temporary evacuation site is threatened by spreading fires or poisonous gases, move to a wide-area evacuation site or other safer place.

## Hazard Map

There is a map of the locations of evacuation sites on pages 16 to 23 in the Japanese Disaster Preparedness Guidebook distributed to all households in Akishima City in February 2022. Make sure you know the locations of the evacuation site and evacuation shelter in your neighborhood. The meanings of the symbols used in the map are as follows.

Emergency transportation roads	
	Primary route
	Secondary route
	Tertiary route

Roads connecting disaster management bases, which are designated by the Governor of Tokyo for transporting emergency supplies after an earthquake.

Legend							
	Disaster response headquarters (City Hall)		Secondary evacuation shelter (welfare evacuation shelter) Facilities made available to temporarily accommodate and protect evacuees in need of care, such as elderly and disabled people, who have difficulty living in a group (healthcare and welfare facilities)		Small-scale stockpile warehouse		Police station
	Wide-area evacuation site Open spaces such as large parks and green areas that are large enough to protect evacuees from fire and other hazards following a large-scale disaster		Emergency drinking water tank		Municipally-operated emergency radio communication tower (loudspeaker)		Police box
	Temporary evacuation site Safe and large spaces such as school grounds and parks where local residents temporarily assemble to check the disaster situation before evacuating to a shelter		Drinking water tank for evacuation shelter		Emergency hospital		General Sports Center (used as a volunteer center in an emergency)
	Evacuation shelter (school facilities) School facilities made available to temporarily accommodate and protect evacuees whose homes were damaged by a natural disaster or fire, or who are at risk of such damage (school gyms and buildings)		Emergency stockpile warehouse		Fire station (including branch fire station)		
	Evacuation shelter (municipal facilities) Municipal facilities made available to temporarily accommodate and protect evacuees who have difficulty living in a group for any reason (assembly and meeting rooms)		Emergency supplies warehouse		Fire brigade station		

# Evacuation flow in case of storm and/or flood

To prepare for typhoons and heavy rains, check the following evacuation flowchart along with the hazard maps.



## Prepare for evacuation!

Recognize the disaster risk for your home and know what to do in an emergency. Be determined to protect your life by yourself.



## Evacuation flow: how should you evacuate?

Find your home on the hazard maps\*.

Is your home located in a colored area?

Yes

No

Can you remain safe by staying at home during a disaster?  
(Decide in advance which is safer for you, to stay or leave home, based on the cases shown on the right.)

Yes

No

You can stay at home.

Will it take extra time for you or accompanying persons to evacuate?

Yes

No

Do you have a relative or friend in a safe place who you could stay with in a disaster?

Yes

No

If an **Evacuation of the Elderly, Etc. (koreishato hinan)** is issued, help the elderly and those in need of care to **evacuate to the home of a relative or friend in a safe place.** (Make arrangements in advance.)

If an **Evacuation of the Elderly, Etc. (koreishato hinan)** is issued, help the elderly and those in need of care to evacuate to the **shelter** designated by the city.

Do you have a relative or friend in a safe place who you could stay with in a disaster?

Yes

No

If an **Evacuation Instruction (hinan shiji)** is issued, **evacuate to the home of a relative or friend in a safe place.** (Make arrangements in advance.)

When an **Evacuation Instruction (hinan shiji)** is issued, evacuate to the **shelter** designated by the city.

\*Hazard maps use coloring to indicate areas at high risk of damage by a flood or landslide. This does not mean that non-colored areas are completely safe. Akishima City issues the Akishima City Flood and Landslide Hazard Map and Akishima City Internal Water Disaster Hazard Map.

Even if your home is located in a non-colored area, you may need to evacuate if the area is lower than the surroundings or located near a cliff, depending on the needs of you and your family members and the disaster situation.

**In the following cases, you may stay at home during an emergency:**

- Your home is located in an area above the estimated inundation level.**  
However, it is not safe to stay at home if the area is designated as at high risk of housing collapse by flooding.
- You live on an upper floor of a disaster-resistant condominium, even if the area is designated as at risk of landslide.**
- Typhoon wind and rain reach their peaks.**  
Even if the inundation depth is just 0.5 meters, you could be at risk of being swept away by flood water if you are on the move by foot or car. A landslide too can be more life-threatening while you are on the move rather than at home.

**Reference: Inundation depths that can be dangerous**

If you are on the **first floor**, an inundation depth of 0.5 meters can be dangerous. If the level of the first floor is lower, you should be on alert even if the inundation depth is less than 0.5 meters.

If you are on the **second floor**, an inundation depth of 3.0 meters can be dangerous.

\*Even if evacuation information is not issued, evacuate to a safe place if you feel that danger is imminent.

## Disaster preparedness information

For detailed disaster preparedness information, please visit the following websites.

“Tokyo Bosai (Disaster Preparedness Tokyo)” is an easy-to-read disaster preparedness handbook specifically for residents of Tokyo. It offers useful information that can be acted on immediately and also during emergencies, helping residents prepare for disasters and take appropriate action when a disaster strikes in line with the geographical characteristics and urban structure of Tokyo as well as their lifestyle. “Tokyo Kurashi no Bosai (Tokyo Disaster Readiness Guide)” is a disaster preparedness handbook written from a female perspective. (Select the language at the top of the webpage.)

### ● Disaster Preparedness Tokyo

東京防災 検索



<https://www.bousai.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/1002147/index.html>

### ● Tokyo Disaster Readiness Guide

東京くらし防災 検索



<https://www.bousai.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/1005427/index.html>