

Dealing with Emergencies and Disasters

In order to secure your safety in case of an emergency or a disaster, you must keep in mind following instructions.

The phone numbers to bear in mind when you ask for help are as follows:

Sudden illness and injuries	Call the Ambulance Service	Dial 119
Fire	Call the Fire Service	Dial 119
Traffic accidents	Call the Police	Dial 110
Theft and other crimes	Call the Police	Dial 110

Report to the International Exchange Division at the phone number:

(078) 803-5260 through 5265; or e-mail address: intl-student@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

Sudden Illness or Injury (Call the Ambulance Service at the phone number 119)

When you need an ambulance, dial 119 and say, "Kyukyu desu" (I need an ambulance). Give your name, address, and explain the injury or illness. The emergency service will find a hospital that can give you treatment. The ambulance service is free of charge.

On holidays and in the evening, hospitals provide emergency treatment on a rotation basis. Inquire which clinic or hospital is on duty at the time at the nearest city or town hall or at the main fire station within the area.

In the Hanshin, Kobe, East Harima and West Harima regions, there is also a special emergency treatment system for foreign residents. About 45 hospitals are registered and diagnostic forms are available in five languages. The hospitals are prepared to deal with emergency cases involving foreign residents at night. For further information, please contact the following organization.

Information and Advisory Service

Hyogo International Association

Tel 078-382-2052

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Fires (Call the Fire Service at the phone number 119)

It is important to take precautions when using a cooking oven, heater or any home appliance. Do not smoke in bed.

● In case of FIRE:

- (1) Shout "Kaji !" (Fire!) to alert your neighbors.
- (2) Dial 119. The Fire Service will ask you whether there is a fire or you need an ambulance. Answer "Kaji desu" (There is a fire). Give your name, address, phone number and any building in the neighborhood that a landmark.
- (3) If the fire is not particularly threatening, use a fire extinguisher to put it out. Cover your mouth with a damp towel as protection against poisonous gas. Leave the area, keeping your body and head as low as possible.

Traffic Accidents (Call the police at the phone number 110)

If you are involved in a traffic accident, you are required by law to report to the police. If an accident is not reported, the Certificate of Traffic Accident necessary for making insurance claims cannot be obtained. You must verify the name and address of the other party and contact the insurance company. In case of injury, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT, you must have a medical examination.

If you do not know how to make an insurance claim, or how to settle matters out of court, contact the following traffic accidents office or lawyer. Consultation is free of charge and there are consultants in several areas of the prefecture. Consultation is in Japanese. If you do not understand Japanese, you should engage an interpreter or contact the Information and Advisory Service, Hyogo International Association (Tel (078) 382-2052).

Traffic Accidents Office

Hyogo Prefecture Consultation Center (Kobe Crystal Tower 6F)

1-1-3 Higashi Kawasaki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe

Tel (078) 360-8521

Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 , 13:00–16 : 00 Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri

[Accident Insurance]

Car insurance is divided into compulsory insurance (required by law) and optional insurance. Compulsory insurance only covers injuries and death of the other parties to accidents caused by the insured. However this form of coverage is far from adequate. Therefore it is strongly recommended that car owners buy optional insurance, which provides full coverage against loss, injury due to accidents, and damage to vehicles etc. This is particularly advisable because pedestrians have the priority in Japan, and the amount of financial compensation for accidents is extremely high. When buying or receiving a motorcycle or a car, you should carefully consider taking out insurance and carefully check the insurance policy.

Cars and Bicycles

In order to prevent traffic accidents, drivers of cars and motorcycles must possess driver's license. Please note that even if you have a driver's license from your home country, you are not allowed to drive in Japan unless you have a valid international or Japanese driver's license.

You may find bicycles left on the streets. However they are often parked temporary or left after they get stolen at different places. Therefore please do not take them since they are not yours.

Theft and Other Crimes (Call the police at the phone number 110)

Dial 110 in case of theft and other crimes.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes occur frequently in Japan. The Great Hanshin Earthquake (January 17,1995) clearly demonstrated that earthquakes could cause considerable damage in a short period of time. Earthquakes can happen at any time without any warning. You should always be prepared, both mentally and materially, in order to keep damage to a minimum.

- What to do if you feel shaking
 - If you are at home, hide under a desk. Do not rush outside.
 - Turn off all gas and cooking or heating appliances, which may be a fire hazard.
 - If you are outside, stay away from concrete walls and other things that could fall.

- What to do after the shaking stops
 - Open doors or windows to create an escape path.
 - Wear shoes so you don't get hurt by broken glass.
 - Turn on the TV or radio to get the information for aftershocks and tsunami.
 - If your house looks like it might collapse or fire has broken out nearby, go to an evacuation center. When you do so, bring your emergency supplies after closing the gas valve and turning off the electricity breaker.

Tsunamis

A tsunami is a tall wave that approaches the shore very quickly. Tsunamis are caused when an earthquake happens in the ocean. You should turn on the TV or radio to check an emergency warning, warning, or advisory for tsunamis during an earthquake.

- Be aware during your everyday life
 - Check a hazard map (<http://www.hazardmap.pref.hyogo.jp/>) (Japanese only)
 - Decide ahead of time where you will evacuate to if a tsunami occurs.

- When you evacuate
 - If you are near the ocean, run to a high place far from the ocean.
 - A tsunami could occur even after a small earthquake.
 - Tsunamis approach repeatedly, not just once.
 - Don't go near the ocean until the tsunami emergency warning, warning, or advisory has been turned off.

Typhoons

Typhoons approach Japan from approximately June to October. When a typhoon comes, it brings strong rain and wind.

- During a typhoon
 - Put potted plants, trash bin and other items inside that could be blown away.
 - Close the curtains so that you won't be injured if the windows break.
 - Stay inside as much as possible.
 - Pay particular attention to the weather forecast. If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Heavy rains, Floods and Land-related disasters

During heavy rain, river banks can be flooded, and water can seep into homes. If you are in a low-lying area where water could collect, escape to a higher place. Stay away from rivers and streams. Heavy rain can also cause landslides. Check the hazard maps made by Hyogo Prefecture or your city (<http://www.hazardmap.pref.hyogo.jp/>) (Japanese only).

Being prepared for disasters

- Emergency supply kit checklist (You should have an emergency supply kit ready.)
 - Flashlight and spare batteries
 - Portable radio
 - Emergency rations
 - Drinking water
 - Medications
 - Money
 - Cash card
 - Passport
 - Resident card
 - Health insurance card
 - Clothing and underwear
 - Helmet
 - Towel
 - Gloves
- Participate in local disaster drills.
- Do not place objects in entrance, passageway and corridor which may obstruct evacuation.
- Check the location of the evacuation center and access routes.
- If a disaster occurs, turn on the TV or radio.

Vocabulary used during disasters

- Advisory (chuiho) . . . a notice that a disaster may occur. There are advisories for heavy rain, floods, strong winds, tsunamis, etc.
- Warning (keiho) . . . a notice that a large-scale and dangerous disaster may occur. There are warnings for heavy rain, floods, violent winds, tsunamis, etc.
- Emergency Warning (tokubetsu keiho) . . . a notice that disaster may occur at an unheard-of scale. There are warnings for heavy rain, violent winds, tsunamis, etc.
- Emergency earthquake warning (kinkyu jishin sokuho) . . . a notice to be careful because an earthquake is about to occur.
- Evacuation preparation advisory (hinan junbi johou) . . . a notice to be prepared to evacuate
- Evacuation advisory (hinan kankoku) . . . a notice that residents are recommended to evacuate
- Evacuation order (hinan shiji) . . . a notice that residents are required to evacuate

After the disaster

In a large-scale disaster, let your embassy or consulate know that you are safe. Kobe University will send a message to the e-mail address that are registered in your Student Portfolio on the URIBO-Net by a safety confirmation system called ANPIC. When you receive it, you must submit your condition. In order to make sure you receive the message, submit your e-mail address to the Student Section at your faculty if you change it.

Hyogo E-net

Hyogo prefecture sends out disaster information (earthquake, tsunami, and weather alerts) and evacuation information to residents in English, Korean, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese. Please register your mobile phone email address below: <http://bosai.net/e/>