

Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organization

"We protect our own town."

When a large-scale disaster occurs, it will become very difficult for public disaster management agencies such as city and fire departments to provide support due to the effects of fires, road damages, and outages in telecommunication, water, and power supply, among others.

In such cases, it is important for community members to cooperate and help each other while working along with Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organizations that have been established in each town.



[What Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organizations Do]

Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organizations are organizations that are voluntarily formed out of a sense of cooperation and a desire to "protect our own town ourselves." They implement disaster preventative measures and mitigate disaster damage.

In Beppu City, each of the 145 neighborhood associations has formed its own Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organization. They carry out various activities to prepare for disasters.

[Roles of a Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organization]

In case of a major earthquake, fire trucks and ambulances may not always arrive immediately. Therefore, it is important for Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organizations to take the lead in initial phase of fire extinguishing, rescue, and relief activities.

※Disaster Prevention Specialist

Personnel with knowledge of disaster prevention are carrying out disaster preventative measures in various neighborhood associations to revitalize the efforts of Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organizations. Be familiar with Disaster Prevention Specialists in your neighborhood.

[Participating in a Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organization]

We never know when or in what way a disaster will strike. It is important to be prepared on a daily basis.

We can actively participate in activities of our local Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organization. We can also check specific areas in our home to be prepared and build a spirit of cooperation with our neighbors.

We can participate in drills conducted by public agencies and Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organizations. In the event of a disaster, we will benefit by knowing how to use a fire extinguisher and by knowing first aid techniques and other disaster preventative measures.

Main Activities of Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organizations

During Normal Conditions



Spread Information on Disaster Preparedness	Spread information on disaster preparedness in the community by means of emergency evacuation drills, workshops, and through various forms of communication such as city newsletters.
Disaster Prevention Inspections	Check hazardous areas in the community and inspect equipment for fire extinguishing and rescuing and materials needed to provide first aid.
Emergency Evacuation Drills	Plan emergency evacuation drills to improve the community's disaster preparedness and build face-to-face relationships within the community on a regular basis.

During Emergencies



Evacuation Guidance	Call out and assist others to evacuate, and guide residents to evacuation sites using safe evacuation routes.
Initial Phase of Fire Extinguishing	Carry out the initial phase of fire extinguishing to prevent the outbreak and spread of fires caused by earthquakes, etc.
Rescue Work	Rescue people trapped under buildings and furniture, and provide first aid.
Gather and Share Information	Communicate information from public agencies to residents, and inform public agencies on the local disaster condition and evacuee information.
Manage Evacuation Shelters	When an evacuation shelter is opened, cooperate with the facility manager and the city to manage the evacuation shelter.

When Evacuating

The important thing during evacuation is to act calmly without panicking. To avoid panicking during an emergency, think in advance about what we should do when a disaster strikes.

When to Evacuate Quickly

When an announcement is made, or instructions are given by the city, police, fire department, or Disaster Prevention Volunteer Organization.

When there is a threat of tsunami, slope failure, mudslide, landslide, etc.

When a building is in danger of collapsing.

When a fire breaks out in your home and spreads to the ceiling.

When there is a fire in the neighborhood, and there is a risk of fire spreading.



Evacuation Information Issued by the City Office

Evacuation information issued by City Office includes the following:

Details of the announcement	Situation	Actions to be taken
Emergency Safety Measures	When a disaster has occurred or is imminent, and evacuation would be dangerous	If you haven't yet evacuated, move to a relatively safe area inside the building, such as an upper floor or a room away from the cliff. If a tall, sturdy building is nearby, evacuate to that building if it is safer moving there than staying where you are.
Evacuation Instruction	When there is a high risk of a disaster	If you're in a dangerous location, evacuate to an evacuation shelter, a relative's or acquaintance's home, or a hotel in a safe location. If going outside would pose a threat to your life, move to a safer place inside your home.
Evacuation of the Elderly, etc.	When there is a risk of a disaster	Those who need time to evacuate (the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with infants, etc.) should start evacuating. Be ready to evacuate at any time. If you feel that your safety is threatened, evacuate immediately.

*Emergency Safety Measures may not always be issued.

*Even when evacuation information is not issued, evacuate immediately if you feel that your safety is threatened.

Tips to Evacuate Safely

■ Evacuate in safe clothing

Protect your head with a helmet or a protective hood.

Wear long sleeves and long pants.

Wear work gloves.

Wear sturdy shoes with thick soles that can be laced up.

Pack your belongings in a backpack and keep both hands open.



■ Check for potential causes of fire before evacuating

Don't forget to turn off the main gas valve and the main electrical circuit breaker.



■ Lock your home, and leave a note with your contact information, such as your evacuation location.



■ Avoid evacuating by car

Driving may become difficult due to road conditions. Avoid evacuating by car.



■ Watch your step

When evacuating at night or on flooded roads, be careful of maintenance holes and gutters. Use a long stick as a walking stick to check your step.



■ Be careful not to get separated from children and the elderly



■ Help each other in groups

Avoid acting alone, and evacuate in groups with neighbors.

