

## Preparing for Typhoons

今回は台風の備えについてお話しします

The rainy season in Miyazaki has passed; however, the heavy rains caused disasters throughout all of Japan this year. Furthermore, typhoon season is on the way, meaning we need to prepare for potential typhoons.

Thus, this month, we will talk about typhoon preparation.

### [What is a Typhoon?]

What constitutes a typhoon varies by country and region. In Japan, low pressure (a tropical low pressure system) that occurs in a tropical or subtropical area with max wind speeds over 17.2 m/s is called a “**Typhoon.**”



### [Typhoon Damage]

Strong Winds・・・Power failures, the collapse of trees, and damage to houses and buildings

Heavy Rains・・・Floods due to river overspill and disruption of roads and railways due to landslides

Tidal Waves・・・・Near coastal areas, waves and seawater cause floods, especially when the approaching typhoon coincides with high tide.

Much damage has been reported in Miyazaki as a result of typhoons in the past. In 2005, Typhoon No. 14 caused extensive damage within Miyazaki. The *Otani River* (a branch of the *Ooyodo River*) overflowed and flooded much of the Komatsu area in Miyazaki city. Several houses and the local hospital were flooded.

### [Mudslides]

Mudslides are caused by rain over a long period and localized torrential rains. The water contained in hillsides mixes with earth and gravel and rapidly slides towards the foot of the mountain. Recently, damage caused by mudslides has increased.

### [Preparing for Typhoons]

- When a typhoon draws near, lock windows and shutters as soon as possible. Close the curtains on windows without shutters to prevent broken glasses from flying about.
- Valuables should be gathered together and ready to grab if you need to move (e.g. bank book, insurance card, alien registration card, etc.).
- In preparation for a power failure or water stoppage, a flashlight and radio (including extra batteries) as well as drinking water should be prepared.
- Make sure of your evacuation site ahead of time, and evacuate at once if you feel yourself in and danger, even if evacuation orders have yet to be officially announced.

Most importantly, however, is to keep in communication daily with the people in the region, so you can help one another if and when something happens.

The Miyazaki International Foundation has prepared a “Disaster Prevention Pamphlet for Foreigners” in three languages: Chinese, English, and Korean. These are available free of charge. If you are in need of such a pamphlet, please come visit us. We can also send these pamphlets to those living farther away.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation: (Phone) 0985-32-8457, (Fax) 0985-32-8512 or (E-mail) [miyainfo@mif.or.jp](mailto:miyainfo@mif.or.jp).

Thank you