

Defending Against Wind and Flood Damage While Also Avoiding COVID-19

(新型コロナウイルス対策を踏まえた風水害への備え)

Sometimes heavy rain and strong winds cause a lot of damage around this time of year. With the current COVID-19 situation, it's particularly important to think about how to stay safe and deal with any problems that could arise. We have listed some advice and necessary precautions below:

- Things to Prepare and be Aware of - ①

- Make sure you and your family know where your nearest 避難所 (*Hinanjo* – evacuation shelter) is, how to get there and how to stay in contact.
- In case the water supply is cut off, fill the bathtub, kettle or any plastic water tanks you have.
- Avoid going outside unless absolutely necessary. Stay away from rivers, drains, gutters, cliffs or other similar potentially dangerous places. 
- Make sure to check the weather forecast and stay up to date with the latest information. Also, pay attention to any evacuation orders, advisories or recommendations from your local Government.
- If the situation looks like it may get worse, be sure to prepare some emergency supplies and pack them into a rucksack or similar bag so that you can evacuate quickly if you need to do so.

- Things to Prepare and be Aware of - ② (COVID-19-related)

- Make sure to think in advance about what sort of action you might have to take in order to evacuate:

Evacuation Shelters can get crowded, and so the risk of infection may be higher. Besides the official Evacuation Shelters designated by the local Government, it may also be possible to use a friend's or relative's house as a shelter if it is located somewhere safe. Also, if you are in an area that is at immediate risk of flooding or landslides, it may also be possible to evacuate temporarily by car to higher ground.

- When you evacuate, besides water, food and essential supplies, it would also be a good idea to take masks, hand sanitizer and a thermometer with you. 
- If you head to an Evacuation Shelter, be sure to avoid the “Three C’s” (Cramped spaces, Crowds of people and Close conversation) – keep some distance from other people, try to stay in places that are well-ventilated, and think about setting up partitions or similar measures if in a school sports hall.

- Information on Disaster Preparedness and Prevention:

- Disaster-related information is published on the “外国人のための防災情報” (*Gaikokujin no tame no bōsai jōhō* – “Disaster Preparedness Information for Foreign Residents”) section on the website of the Miyazaki Prefectural Government.
- The Miyazaki International Foundation has published the Disaster Prevention Pamphlet for Foreign Residents, available in Japanese, English, Korean and Chinese at the Miyazaki International Plaza and the Support Center for Foreign Residents – make sure to read it.

You can also find the pamphlet online on the Miyazaki International Foundation's website – <http://www.mif.or.jp> .

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this column, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation (MIF):

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If you have any worries, questions, concerns or anything you would like to talk about in your daily life here in Miyazaki, feel free to contact the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents any time:

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