

Earthquake Response Procedures by Time

It is important to act calmly in the event of an earthquake. By making calm decisions, you can help save the lives of yourself, your family, and those around you. Think about how you will act in the event of an earthquake.

At Home (Indoors)

Outside (Outdoors)

When an Earthquake Occurs

Ensure Personal Safety Strong shaking may continue for over a minute

- Go under a table or desk
- Beware of falling furniture or objects
- Turn off any gas stoves, close gas valves
- Open doors and windows to secure escape routes



- Protect your head with a bag, etc.
- Lean against a pillar or wall
- Keep away from windows or block walls
- Gradually slow down and park your car on the left side of the road with the engine off



1 – 5mins

Check Your Surroundings Act calmly to prevent additional disasters

- Check for fire
- Turn off circuit breakers
- Confirm the safety of your family
- Prepare emergency supplies
- Evacuate immediately if in an area at risk of slope collapse
- Wear shoes to protect your feet from broken glass



- Evacuate to a nearby open space or park
- Follow official instructions at public facilities and shops
- Stay calm and wait for emergency lighting during power outages
- If in a car, gather information via the radio
- Never approach cliffs or coastal areas



5 – 10min

Confirm the Safety of Others Work together to understand the situation



Oshu Emergency Alert Radio

- Support those who need special assistance
- If there are injured people around you, work together to provide first aid
- If there is a fire, notify others loudly and work together to extinguish it
- Never use elevators
- Prioritize emergency contact with the police, fire department, and ambulance over other calls
- Check for information via radio and other sources



- Check on the safety of your neighbors
- If there is a risk of a house collapse, evacuate immediately
- Avoid evacuating by car if possible

- When evacuating from a car, leave the key in the ignition, do not lock the doors, and leave a note with your contact information.

10min – Several Hours – 7 Days

Beware of Aftershocks Take reliable action based on accurate information

- Live with a stockpile of daily necessities
- Collect disaster and damage information
- Do not enter damaged buildings
- Cooperate with neighbors by sharing supplies



- Evacuate to a nearby shelter
- If it is determined that the area is safe, walk home
- Use an emergency messaging service, etc., to communicate your whereabouts



Earthquake Damage

Strong tremors can affect critical services such as electricity and water supply, as well as cause serious additional disasters.

Liquefaction	When a strong earthquake shakes loosely deposited sandy ground, it can turn into a liquid state. Places such as reclaimed land, and old riverbeds that have been filled with concrete, are more likely to experience this phenomenon.	→ Watch your step when evacuating!
Structural Collapse	Strong tremors and aftershocks can damage buildings, as well as weaken their structural support. Old wooden houses are particularly vulnerable to damage from termite erosion, making them more likely to collapse. Measures must be taken to counter the risk of being buried among the rubble.	→ Evacuate promptly and keep a safe distance!
Fire	There are many cases of fire outbreak due to damaged gas pipes, electrical wiring, and clothing falling onto heaters during tremors. In densely populated places, such as residential areas, there is also the risk of a large-scale fire.	→ Maintain daily precautions against fire!
Sediment-related Disasters	The ground can loosen to a great depth underground, and aftershocks or even slight rain can cause slope collapses and landslides. In addition, sediment can dam up a river, causing a large-scale flood.	→ Move away from cliffs if you feel shaking!

About Active Faults

It is believed that there are countless active faults in Oshu, including those that are known. Among them is the Kitakami Lowland Western Fault Zone (Detana Fault Zone), which is believed to extend over approximately 24km between the Iwasaki region of Kitakami and the Iwasa region of Oshu. See the Iwate Prefecture website for further survey information.

Kitakami Lowland Western Fault Zone (Detana Fault Zone) ▶



Earthquake Damage Mitigation

Becoming trapped under furniture can be life threatening. Be sure to take measures to prevent damage to your home.

Ensure an Escape Route



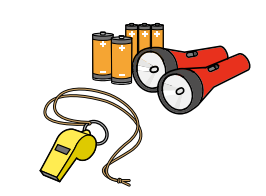
Do not place furniture, cardboard boxes, etc., in hallways leading to the exit, and make sure you have a secure path to escape.

Limit Bedroom Furniture



To avoid the risk of being delayed in escaping when waking up, avoid placing furniture in bedrooms as much as possible.

Have a Flashlight and Whistle Within Reach

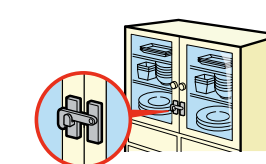
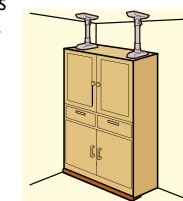


Keep a flashlight and whistle at hand for moving around in the dark and signaling your location.

Securing Furniture

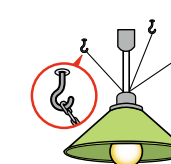
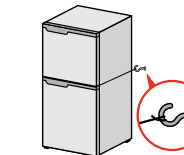
Dressers

Secure with L-shaped brackets or tension rods. For stacked dressers, etc., securely connect the joints with metal brackets.



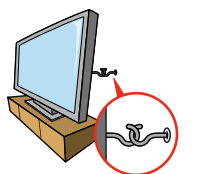
Refrigerators

Wrap a wire, etc., between the door and the wall, and secure with metal fittings.



Light Fixtures

Use chains to secure to the ceiling or replace with fixtures that attach directly to the ceiling.



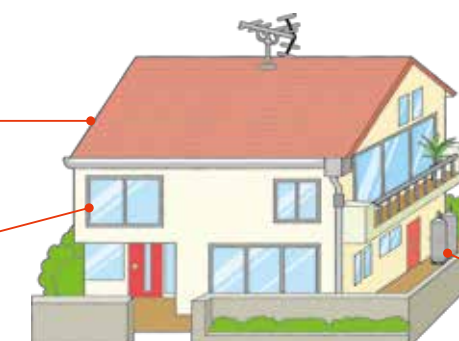
Televisions

Secure to the wall and place at a low level with adhesive mats.

Outdoors

Roofing
Reinforce unstable antennas and roof tiles.

Window Glass
Apply shatterproof film.



Balconies
Organize potted plants, etc.

Block Walls
Repair cracks and rusted rebar.

Propane Gas
Secure cylinders to the outer wall with a chain.