



Special Feature

Review Your Plan Now!

Be Prepared in Case of an Emergency

「もしも」に備えてできること

One year has passed since the Noto Peninsula earthquake occurred on January 1, 2024. Last August, a Nankai Trough Earthquake Advisory was issued, warning of a potential megaquake. This advisory reminds us that earthquakes can happen anywhere, at any time. Let's take this opportunity to review how we can prepare for disasters, drawing on the experiences of city staff who were dispatched to Noto.

Preparing for Emergencies and Helping Each Other

Disaster preparedness can be divided into three categories:

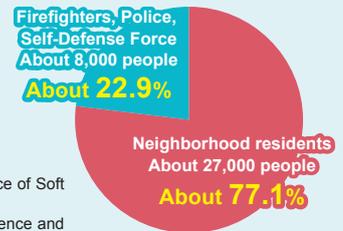
1. Self-help: Protecting yourself and your family.
2. Mutual assistance: Helping each other in cooperation with neighbors, acquaintances, and friends.
3. Public assistance: Support provided by governmental authorities.

After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, about 80% of the victims were saved by their families and neighbors. This highlights the importance of self-help and mutual assistance in protecting yourself during emergencies.

Source: "2014 White Paper on Disaster Reduction," Special Feature, Chapter 2: "The Limits of Public Assistance" and the Importance of Soft Power through "Self-help and Mutual Aid"

Estimation: Based on Kawata, Y. (1997), "Prediction of Human Damage Caused by Large-Scale Earthquake Disasters," Natural Science and Technology, Vol. 16, No. 1. Percentages were added by the Cabinet Office.

Main Rescuers and Number of Rescued Persons in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake



Disaster Preparation ~Noto Peninsula Earthquake Assistance Experience~



✓ Daily medication



✓ Emergency kit



✓ Evacuation site



✓ Earthquake reinforcement measures



Dispatched three times for Noto Peninsula earthquake recovery work
Jutaku Kenchiku Ka
Assistant section manager
Toru IHARA

What to Prepare in Case of Emergency!



Prepare at Least a 3-day Supply of Your Daily Medications and a Copy of Your Prescription Record!



Prepare medicine for at least 3 days, preferably 7 days!

Daily Medication



With a copy of your Prescription Record (okusuri techo), any medical institution can smoothly provide you with your regular medication.

A Copy of Your Prescription Record

Shelters Can Cause Mental Illness...



After a disaster strikes, people are more likely to experience stress due to changes in their living environment, such as going to an emergency shelter far away from where they have been living.



Evacuees who had to move far from their homes told me of their struggles. Many found it hard not having their usual tasks like farming or housework, which they used to do all the time. Some couldn't sleep due to worries about the future. These experiences made me reflect on the kind of care I would need if I were affected by a disaster and what measures I could take in advance.



Provided mental health care for survivors
Chiiki Kyosei Shakai
Suishin Ka
Section manager
Maki RYUO



Keep Your Emergency Supplies Ready!



Damage to Lifelines Caused by the Earthquake

If an earthquake damages essential services like electricity, gas, and water, these lifelines may be shut down for an extended period. This is because fires and aftershocks can prevent their restoration.

Source:
-Hyogo Prefecture website, "Support and Recovery from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake"
-Ishikawa Prefecture website, "Summary of Press Conference on April 1, 2024"
-Cabinet Office website, "Damage from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake of 2024"

Days Required for Restoration	Electricity Supply	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	6 days
		Noto Peninsula Earthquake	74 days
	Gas Supply	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	84 days
		Noto Peninsula Earthquake	9 days
	Water Supply	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	90 days
		Noto Peninsula Earthquake	151 days

What You Can Do Now

Stockpile Food and Water in Advance

Stockpile food, drinking water (3 liters per person per day), and daily necessities for at least three days, preferably for one week.

It is recommended that you consume your stockpile regularly, purchase what you have consumed, and stockpile it again. Even foods with rather short expiration dates can be considered as emergency rations if consumed on a regular basis. This method is called rolling stock in Japanese.



Learn what to stockpile here /



Useful Items in Times of Disaster!

Some everyday items can be useful in times of disaster. Camping gear is especially useful when electricity and gas are cut off.

Compact type tents are recommended



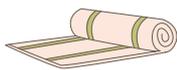
Tents

Can be used for creating a private space in a shelter!



Portable Stoves

Useful for warming up food!



Sleeping Mats

Can be used to prevent the cold from the ground!



Water Containers

Convenient during a water stoppage!

Prepare an Emergency Toilet Kit, too!

Estimation:

Minimum 5 times per day × 7 days

Choose a toilet kit that can be sealed to prevent spreading smells and ensure sanitation.



In the event of a disaster, human waste can be disposed of as burnable trash.



After the Noto Peninsula earthquake, it took a long time for the water supply to be restored. Toilets couldn't be flushed, so I had to use plastic bags instead. We even had to collect snow to get water. This experience taught me the importance of being prepared in advance to stay as comfortable as possible until essential services are restored.





Evacuate in the Event of an Earthquake!



List of evacuation centers in the city /



If your home isn't secure after an earthquake, do not hesitate to go to a public evacuation center.

Possible Risks of Staying Home After an Earthquake



The House Might Collapse

Even if the house is safe immediately after the earthquake, there is a risk that it may collapse suddenly due to aftershocks.

You may become trapped under the house.



Unable to Get Relief Supplies

If you stay at home without contacting others and do not go to an evacuation center, you may not be able to assess the situation properly and supplies may not be delivered.



Unable to Confirm Your Safety



Many people stayed in their homes immediately after the earthquake. However, support for food and daily necessities is first distributed at evacuation centers. It is easier to get information and confirm people's safety if they are at evacuation centers. In addition, public evacuation centers are considered to be resistant to earthquakes. Although you may feel safer in your familiar home, it is important to go to an evacuation center if you cannot confirm that your home is safe.



Dispatched to recovery efforts 10 days after the earthquake
Jutaku Kenchiku Ka
Group Manager
Yosuke OKADA

Koka City Disaster Information!



Koka City Website

Emergency information is updated on the top page as needed after a disaster occurs. Disaster prevention information and other information is posted on the Kiki Kanri Ka page.



Aikoka Emergency E-mail Notification

News on earthquakes, landslides, and other disasters. Multilingual distribution in English, Portuguese, and other languages is also available!



Koka City Official LINE

Delivers announcements, events, and disaster prevention information from the city. You can set your preferences for the information you would like to receive from the LINE menu!



A special campaign is currently being offered!



FM HANA flowers radio



A disaster prevention agreement was signed on September 18, 2023. In the event of a disaster, evacuation and emergency information will be broadcast.



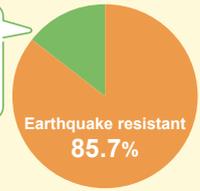
- How to Listen
- ▶ Radio Set the frequency to FM 77.5 MHz.
 - ▶ Smartphones and Tablets Download the Listen Radio app



Check the Subsidy Program for Earthquake Reinforcement!

Percentage of Earthquake Resistant Buildings in the City (as of 2020)

Not fully earthquake-resistant
14.3%



Free assessment of earthquake resistance is available for wooden houses built before May 31, 1981.

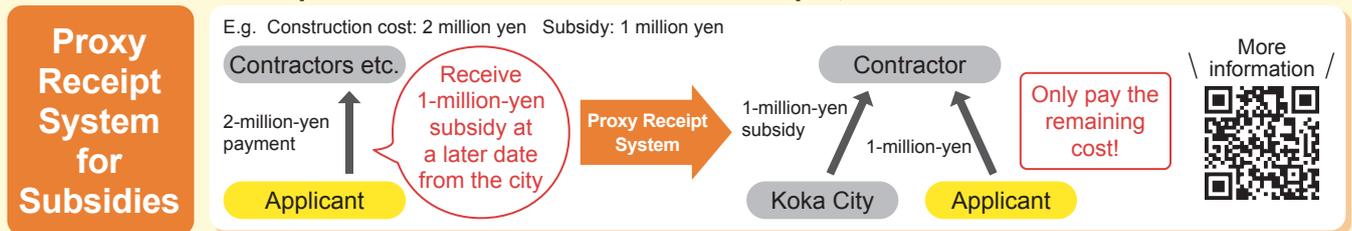
Note: Applications for the 2024 fiscal year have closed.



● Process of Subsidy Program for Earthquake Reinforcement



● Subsidies for Earthquake Reinforcement will start from April, 2025



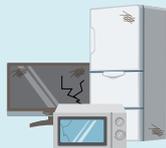
Take Advantage of Additional Services from Koka City!

Waste Disposal After Disasters

If a disaster causes a large amount of waste due to furniture and other items being destroyed, the city may set up a temporary waste storage area. To avoid having trouble sorting waste when a disaster strikes, be sure to confirm disposal procedures on a regular basis.



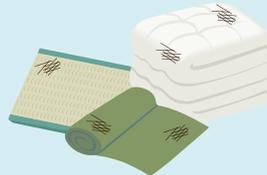
Type of Disaster Waste



Appliances damaged in a disaster



Furniture damaged in a disaster



Futons, tatami mats, carpets etc. that no longer be used due to the disaster



Broken glass and ceramics damaged in a disaster

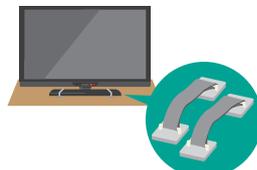
What You Can Do to Reduce Disaster Waste



Dispose of unneeded items such as furniture



Secure all potentially unstable furniture



Subsidies for the installation of furniture securing equipment are available!



Certain requirements must be met to be eligible.



To Prevent Fires Caused by Earthquakes

Install Earthquake-sensitive Circuit Breakers.

When an earthquake occurs, there is a risk of electrical fires starting from appliances during power restoration and tremors. Earthquake-sensitive circuit breakers can prevent these fires by automatically tripping the breakers and shutting off electricity when an earthquake is detected.



Subsidies are available for residents who meet certain requirements.



Issued in a Minimum of One Week! Express Issuance of My Number Card Now Available

マイナンバーカードの特急発行がはじまりました

Eligible Persons

- Those who are under one year old (application can be made at the same time as the birth notification)
- Those who have moved into Koka City from outside of Japan
- Those who need to have their My Number Card reissued (only for the following reasons)
 - ・ Having lost your My Number Card.
 - ・ Having no more space to write additional information in the box on your My Number Card.
 - ・ Your My Number Card has been burnt.
 - ・ Your My Number Card has been damaged and it doesn't work properly.

Application Period

Within 30 days from the date of becoming eligible for express issuance of a My Number Card.

Example: For a person who moved to Koka City from outside of Japan, within 30 days from the date of submitting the moving-in registration.

Steps from Application to Issuance

- ① Application at the counter
 - Apply for express issuance of My Number Card
 - Set your PIN number
 - Have your portrait photo taken
- ② The card will be sent to your home from the government by registered mail.

Note: If the application is submitted at the same time as the birth certificate or if there are a large number of applications for express issuance, the arrival of the card may take more than one week.

My Number Card for Persons Under 1 Year Old

My Number Cards for those under one year of age became photo-less as of December 2, 2024. (No photo is required at the time of application.)

What Is Required for Application

- Identification documents (A or B)
 - A: Two photo IDs (such as driver's license)
 - B: One photo ID + One photo-less ID (such as an insurance card)
- My Number Card (if you have one)
- Lost report receipt number (in the case of loss outside home or theft)

Note:

-If you do not have any of the above IDs, please contact the Shimin Ka at City Hall.

-The above is not required for applications made at the same time as birth certificate submission.

-A fee is required to reissue lost cards

Where to Apply

Shimin Ka and each Chiiki Shimin Center



City website ▶



Inquiries

Shimin Ka

☎ 69-2139

☎ 65-6338

Penalties Will Be Incurred for Riding Bicycles While Using Smartphones and for Riding While Drunk

自転車の「ながらスマホ」と「酒気帯び運転」が罰則強化

The amendment to the Road Traffic Law came into effect on November 1, 2024.

Smartphone Use While Riding Bicycles

The act of using a smartphone or other device while riding a bicycle is now prohibited and subject to penalties*.

Since the minimum age for arrest is 14, junior high and high school students should also be cautious.

*Using a smartphone on a stopped bicycle is not subject to arrest.



More than 20% of all traffic accidents are caused by bicycles. To prevent serious accidents, please follow the traffic rules.

Inquiries

Seikatsu Kankyo Ka

☎ 69-2143

☎ 63-4582

Drunk Bicycle Riding and Related Offences

In addition to drunk riding on bicycles, penalties are also imposed on persons serving alcohol to cyclists, for being the passenger of a drunk cyclist, and for letting a drunk person use a bicycle.



For more information, visit the government's website ▶



Consultation Corner

January 15 to February 14

Consultation services are provided for free. Feel free to use them.

Consultation Topic/Contact Details	When	Available Times	Where/ Other Information
<p>Daily Life and Work Consultations (Life Support Desk)*</p> <p>Concerns about daily life, work, etc. *No application required. Support provided by: General support staff or employment support staff. Contact Seikatsu Shien Ka ☎ 69-2158 ☎ 63-4085</p>	Monday to Friday (except national holidays)	8:30-17:15	Seikatsu Shien Ka 1st Floor, Koka City Hall
<p>Consumer Affairs Consultations</p> <p>Advice about contracts, products, etc. in consumer affairs. Support provided by: Consumer Affairs Consultant Contact Shouhi Seikatsu Center ☎ 69-2147 / Consumer Hotline 188 (no area code)</p>	Monday to Friday (except national holidays)	9:00-17:00	Shohi Seikatsu Center 1st Floor, Koka City Hall
<p>Pension Consultations</p> <p>Support provided by: Kusatsu Japan Pension Service employees *Reservations required. Appointments filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Appointments Kusatsu Japan Pension Service ☎ 077-567-2220 ☎ 077-562-9638</p>	March 13 (Thu) *Held every other month	10:00-15:00	Kaigishitsu Room 202 2nd Floor, Koka City Hall
<p>School Age Consultations</p> <p>For school-aged children (from elementary school to high school age), their parents, and their families. Contact Kosodate Seisaku Ka ☎ 69-2176 ☎ 69-2298</p>	Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except for national holidays)	8:30-17:15	Kosodate Seisaku Ka 2nd Floor, Koka City Hall You can also make inquiries using the Child-Rearing Concierge Inquiry Form.
<p>Young Carers Consultations</p> <p>For young carers, the community and other involved persons regarding concerns and issues faced. Contact Kosodate Seisaku Ka ☎ 69-2184 ☎ 69-2298</p>			
<p>Child Development and Learning Consultations*</p> <p>For development and mental health issues. *Reservations by phone or fax are required. Age range Toddlers around 4 years old and up, elementary, junior high, high school students and young adults up to around 25 years old *For consultation for children under 4 years old, please contact your local health center. Contact Appointments Hattatsu Shien Ka ☎ 69-2178 ☎ 69-2298 (Reception hours: 9:00-17:00)</p>			Preschools, schools, city halls, etc.
<p>Youth Consultations for Truancy or Social Withdrawal</p> <p>Counseling on social withdrawal and truancy for those who have completed compulsory education up to the age of 25 years old Contact Hattatsu Shien Ka ☎ 69-2179 (☎ Reception hours: 9:00-17:00)</p>			
<p>General Youth Issues*</p> <p>Counseling regarding truancy, bullying, delinquency, delinquent behavior, friendships, employment and school enrollment, etc. *From Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (except public holidays and end-of-year holidays). Consultations can also be made by phone and email.</p>			<p>Contact Shonen Center (in Minakuru Plaza) ☎ 62-6010 ☎ 63-3977 ✉ k-syonen@city.koka.lg.jp</p> 

Monthly Tax Payments

今月の納税

The due date for tax payments this month is: January 31 (Fri)

- Resident tax (4th term installment)
- National health insurance tax (8th term installment)
- User fees (Nursery school, kindergarten fees and nursery school lunch fees)
- Long-term care insurance premium (8th term installment)
- Medical insurance premiums for the elderly
- Public sewage fees and agricultural community drainage facility fees

Direct debit is a convenient way to manage payments.



Minakuchi Shinryosho Clinic Offers Medical Services on Sundays and National Holidays

みなくち診療所で休日に診療を行っています

Open on January 5, 12, 13, 19, 26
(Sundays and National holidays)

Business Hours ● Morning session: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
● Afternoon session: 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Reception: 8:45 am - 3:30 pm

Medical Specialty Internal Medicine

Administrator

Medical Koka (name changed from Imamura Iin Clinic)

Inquiries Minakuchi Shinryosho Clinic
(during business hours)
☎ 62-3346 ☎ 63-1728
Iryo Seisaku Shitsu
☎ 69-2171 ☎ 63-4085



City website ▶



Are You Ready to File Your Tax Return with Your Smartphone?

スマホで確定申告する準備はお済みですか?

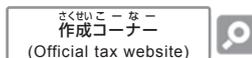
What You Need

- Smartphone capable of reading the information on your My Number Card
- My Number Card
- 2 Types of password for your My Number Card
 - ① Password for signature (6 to 16 letters/numbers)
 - ② Password for user certification (4-digit number)



National Tax Agency website ▲

Inquiries
Minakuchi Zeimusho Tax Office
☎ 62-0317



Extended Business Hours in January (until 19:00 every Tuesday)

January 7, 14, 21, 28

On Tuesdays, the Shimin Ka in City Hall is open until 19:00 for issuing personal documents such as family registers, residence certificates, tax certificates and for registering personal seals.

*Please note that we cannot handle procedures related to the My Number Card or resident transfers (moving in, moving out, etc.).

Various personal documents can be obtained at convenience stores and online using your My Number Card. (For details, please scan the QR code below)



▲ Issuance at
Convenience Stores



▲ Online Issuance

Inquiries Shimin Ka ☎ 69-2138 ☎ 65-6338



Declaration of Depreciable Assets by January 31

償却資産の申告が始まります

In addition to land and houses, depreciable assets (machinery in factories, exterior and paved areas of houses and parking lots for rent, and business assets such as solar power generation equipment) are also subject to property tax.

Property owners are required to report the assets they own as of January 1 of each year.

Eligible Persons and Corporations

As of January 1, individuals or companies operating factories or stores, or renting out parking lots or apartments, and owning business assets (including the landlords of such assets) in Koka City.

Deadline for Submission January 31 (Fri)

Where to File Inquiries Zeimu Ka ☎ 69-2129 ☎ 63-4574

City website ▶



Editing & Publishing

Koka City Hall

6053, Minakuchi, Minakuchi cho, Koka city, 528-8502

☎ 0748-65-0650 ☎ 0748-63-4086

Business Hours: 8:30-17:15 (Except extended business hours on Tuesdays)



Information on Koka City is also available on the city's website and Facebook!

Koka City Website

<https://www.city.koka.lg.jp/>

Koka City Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/city.koka>

Koka City
Website



Koka City
Facebook

