



Be vigilant, be aware, be prepared

By Michelle Stewart,
FLEACT, Yokosuka Public Affairs

We are very fortunate to live here in Japan, but we are not immune to severe weather to include typhoons and tropical storms. Anyone who has been here any length of time may have felt the small tremors that are occasional to this area. Although typhoon season officially runs from May to October, there is no season for earthquakes and severe weather can hit without warning. It is always a good idea to remain vigilant and be prepared throughout the year.

Throughout the year, especially during typhoon season, base leadership employ various ways to keep our community aware. Preparing for a disaster is the most

important step you can take for keeping you and your family safe.

When a disaster strikes emergency responders have to attend to the most critical needs first, and may not be able to get to everyone immediately.

Step 1 is make a disaster kit (a list of what should be in your emergency kit is provided on page 12).

Step 2 is make and plan. Consider all possibilities when developing your family plan. Think about all the places you might be when disaster hit and the range of severity for each emergency. Building a family communication plan will be helpful in any case.

Set 3 is stay informed. Dangerous situations can happen anywhere at any time, so always try to

familiarize yourself with the spectrum of possible dangers. In Japan, the most likely and severe are earthquakes, tropical typhoons, and pandemics. Living abroad presents you and your family with additional challenges if you don't speak the local language so being prepared is even more important. There are a host of methods used on FLEACT, Yokosuka to keep you informed. (A listing appears on page 8).

Not sure what you need, who to call or where to go? Don't panic – this issue is chock full of information that you should read and keep available.

You have a role in planning for emergencies at home and at work – preparedness empowers you. It saves property and time. Be Ready Navy!

Off-base evacuation sites provide safety for residents

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, FLEACT, Yokosuka Public Affairs

Fleet Activities (FLEACT), Yokosuka Emergency Management Office worked with the city of Yokosuka to identify common evacuation sites that community members can travel to in an emergency situation.



Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East personnel work to remove a tree from the top of a car following a recent storm. Disaster preparedness in Japan means understanding that a storm can happen any time and can cause damage to surrounding structures.

"We've been working on this for about two years," said Jeff Lindaman, FLEACT Yokosuka Emergency Management Officer. "So, if there is a disaster and you are off the installation, there are places you can go, high schools, elementary schools, parks. The host nation will setup temporary shelters, which will have food, water, sanitary items and emergency services. They will provide us the best service they can just as we would provide them with the best service we can as a host-nation partner. People will be taken care of. We work with the city, we have meetings with them quite often so that there is a plan in place and people know what to expect."

The Emergency Management Office developed updated maps of the evacuation sites. The sites are identified around the main installation, Ikego and Negishi housing detachments, and also locations further away from the base.

People who live or find themselves in locations from the tip of the Miura peninsula through Yokosuka, Zushi and all the way up past Yokohama will have a location to head to in an emergency situation.

"There is a list of the closest locations like schools so in case something happens to your home and you can't make it to the installation, there will be a safe place you can go to," said Lindaman. "We are working with the city to have forms there, in English, that they can fill out and have those transported here to this office to check in for accountability purposes."

There are four types of evacuation sites that are identified on the map; squares indicate shelter and wide-area evacuation sites, circles for wide-area evacuation sites, triangles for shelters, and stars for shelters for wind, or flood.

"These sites will provide support to the host nation and any of our community members that arrive there during a natural or man-made disaster," said Lindaman. "If you do travel to one of the locations you are going to want to have some things with you. I would take your I.D., your medical record if you have certain conditions or special needs, and anything you think you'll need. The shelters will be there to help you, but they won't have everything. Things like extra clothes and your emergency kit, it'd be a good idea to take these things with you." *See SITES page 12*

Be prepared:

Typhoon preparation checklist

Typhoons are strong tropical storms that cause life and property threatening hazards such as flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. Preparation is the best protection against the dangers of a typhoon.

Be prepared:

Noncombatant Evacuation Operations

Noncombatant Evacuation Operations are the ordered or authorized departure of civilian noncombatants and nonessential military personnel from danger in an overseas country to a designated safe haven, typically within the continental United States.