

What's Happening in Obihiro?

English Newsletter



When Disaster Strikes!

When the once solid earth beneath your feet begins to jerk and twitch like a rug being pulled out from under you, your confidence can be shaken as well. If you're like me, then you come from a land where earthquakes and volcanoes are things you have only seen in movies, and if something like that actually occurred, you would have no idea how to react.

If you worry about what to do during a disaster, then this issue of WHIO is written especially for you! You are living in Japan, which is on the ring of fire (see diagram at right), and on top of that Japan is located at the intersection of THREE tectonic plates! This can make for quite a turbulent magma ride on the outer crust! Earthquakes of varying magnitudes are frequent, and live volcanoes are almost everywhere throughout the country.



With this much tectonic action going on around here, it would definitely be wise to study up on what to do in case disaster strikes! That's why on Sunday, September 3rd, the Inada Area Committee is holding a Disaster Preparedness Training session. During a disaster, everyone in a community works together to help and protect each other because due to fires and damaged roads, the fire department or other rescue workers may not be able to reach you immediately. There are special routes for evacuation, special shelters where everyone in the neighborhood can sleep, and there are even procedures for supplying food.



Disaster Preparedness Week in Obihiro is from 8/30 to 9/5. During this week people make preparations for disasters such as fires, earthquakes, tsunami, landslides, and volcanic eruptions.

The most common disaster in Japan is the earthquake, of course. Every year, the waters just off the eastern and southern coasts of Hokkaido (the waters near Obihiro) have 4 to 6 earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 or greater. According to the pictures in Obihiro's Earthquake Emergency Procedures Guide, magnitude 5.0 earthquakes can cause things to fall off shelves and in strong ones the walls of your house could begin to crack!

If you are at all unsure or at least curious about what you should do in case of a disaster, you should come to the Obihiro City Hall (West 5, South 7), and I will personally give you a very useful guide written in English with lots of pictures and everything. The Japanese people have had much experience with earthquakes, so the guide is full of detailed explanations and wisdom. I am definitely going to take one home and read it all tonight!

Disaster Preparedness Training

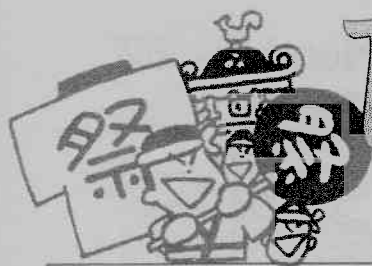
When: 9/3/2006 at 9am

Where: Inada Shogakkoh (Inada Elementary School)
West 15 South 39, Obihiro

What: There's going to be first-aid training, a smoke room where you learn how to escape a smoke-filled room, and fire-extinguisher training. There's going to be actual rubble from which you have to save someone, a squashed-car-rescue demonstration, and many other crucial and interesting activities. The Japan Self Defense Forces are going to be there, and to top it all off, there may be some free food to eat at the end. There may not be a translator present, but in a disaster, there's probably not going to be one either, so I strongly suggest that you participate in this event! (Obihiro University students should ask their teachers about the shuttle bus going to the event)



(People practicing with fire extinguishers at the training event)



Tokachi Events

September 2006



When	What	Where/Contact #
9/1-9/3 (Fri-Sun) 6:00-18:49	RALLY JAPAN: After the Rally Show and Ceremonial Start on 8/31, there will be 3 days of racing around the Obihiro and Rikubetsu area.	帯広市と陸別町 All around Obihiro and Rikubetsu Contact: 0155-28-3103
9/9-10 (Sat-Sun) 9:00 - 17:00	Plaza Matsuri***: Come on down to Tokachi Plaza where there will be dance performances, arts and craft making booths and other interesting booths to visit.	とかちプラザ Tokachi Plaza 0155-22-7915
9/10 (Sun) 8:30 - 15:30	5th Brigade's 2nd Anniversary: Come see the Japan Self-Defense Forces in all their glory right here in Obihiro! There'll be helicopter rides, rides in other war machines, and many other attractions. Childrens' activities as well. Hint: Most of the action starts after noon!	第5旅団司令部広報室 Self-Defense Forces Base in Obihiro (Shuttle bus from Tokachi Plaza 8:45 to 10am) 0155-48-5121(ext.2412)
9/10 (Sun) 8:30 - 12:30	Hokkaido Unicycle Marathon: The race track is going to be the dry riverbed area near Ohashi Bridge. The doors open at 8:30, but the actual race is from 10 to 12.	十勝川ミレニアムコース Tokachi River Millennium Course 0155-23-7101
9/23 (Sat) 14:00 - 15:00	Story Telling Around the World: This month's children's book is going to be from Mongolia, read in both Mongolian and Japanese. We're going to play games and have fun while listening to a story from another land. Our target audience is children from 3 yrs. old to 2 nd grade elementary students.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center (in the library room) 0155-34-0122
9/23 (Sat) 10:00 - 15:00	Sky Day at Obihiro Airport: Fuselage tours, sports kite shows, a helicopter rescue demonstration, a fire rescue demo, paper airplanes and some JAL cosplay (for kids)! There's also going to be tours of the airport by bus, and walking tours of the inside of the airport.	とかち帯広空港 Obihiro Airport 0155-28-3101
9/23 (Sat) 9:00-14:00	Taisho May Queen Matsuri***: The May Queen Potato harvest is in! Potato peeling, and potato eating contests. Also, come see a live Naruto (an anime character) battle performance!	大正ふれあい広場 Downtown Taisho (S. of Obihiro on 236) 0155-64-4591
9/23 to 9/25 (Sat to Mon) 23 rd : Evening 24 th : 10am to Afternoon 25 th : 4pm to Evening	Obihiro Shrine Anniversary Festival: The 24 th is the anniversary of the creation of the shrine. There will be lots of ancient Shinto dancing and music on the 23 rd including a kid's performance at 7pm. The 24 th will have a traditional archery performance at 1pm. On the 25 th the beautiful Mikoshi (portable shrines) will be returning to the shrine at 4pm. Everyday of the festival there will be yatai (shops), tea ceremonies, and other fun things, so please come drink up all the culture!	帯広神社 Obihiro Shrine (Hwy 38 @ East 3) (parking available in shrine parking lot nearby) 0155-23-3955
9/30-10/1 (Sat to Sun) 10:00-15:00	NHK Obihiro Studio's 70th Birthday: There's going to be Tokachi veggies and cheese on sale outside, live broadcasts inside, and fun activities planned for both days so come check it out! The studio is right across the street from City Hall.	NHK帯広放送局 NHK Obihiro Studio 0155-23-3111
10/1 (Sun) 9:50-14:00	Autumn Wine Matsuri***: Come to the Ikeda Wine Castle and enjoy all the wine and food that you can fit in your stomach! They're going to roast an entire cow, have a wine guessing contest and a huge sausage eating contest as well, so come check it out! (Adult: 3800yen. Entrance closes @ 13:30!)	ワイン城横イベント広場 Ikeda Wine Castle 01557-2-2467

***Note matsuri = festival

Obihiro Survival Guide!

Disaster Preparedness

This month's survival guide is going to quickly go over the procedures you should follow in the event of a disaster. You can get a detailed guide in English from the International Relations Section on the second floor of Obihiro City Hall.



Earthquakes happen all the time in Japan, but when a big one hits, you should be able to react quickly and without hesitation.

The first thing you should do is stay calm and seek safety. Protect your head from falling objects and rubble by getting under a sturdy desk or table, or by covering your head with a thick pillow or cushion. You should also try to open an exit door right away. This is because if the door bends during the quake, making it unusable, you may not be able to escape from your own house! Your first instinct may be to run outside, but, especially if you live downtown, you may be running out into a storm of falling glass and other dangerous debris.



To prevent domicile immolation whenever you feel an earthquake, you should immediately try to put out any open flames (like stovetops) and unplug electrical appliances. When evacuating after an earthquake, make sure to turn off the circuit breaker in your house. If a fire starts try to put it out with a fire extinguisher. Remember to shout "Kajidah!!" (There's a fire!!) to warn others and also to focus yourself on the task at hand. It is always a good idea to get some practice using a fire extinguisher so you should definitely participate in neighborhood disaster preparedness training events like the one listed on the front page of this issue of WHIO.

Most disaster shelters are located in local elementary and middle schools. This one happens to be Obihiro's Central Park, but you should see a sign that looks like the one at right. These signs are found on most fire hydrants in Obihiro.



When there is an earthquake, stay away from narrow or walled roads, cliffs, beaches, and the bottoms of mountains. Narrow and walled roads can trap you. Beaches are dangerous because a tsunami may follow a large earthquake. Head for higher ground but avoid mountains and cliffs because of the danger of landslides and falling boulders. Temporarily evacuate to a sturdy building or an open square, or other open area.

There are around 63 disaster refuge areas (hinan-basho) in Obihiro. Many of them are located in elementary schools or middle schools. When evacuating during a disaster, it is very important to remember not to use a car or other vehicle because it is dangerous to do so. If you are unsure about the location of your refuge area, ask a neighbor or call us here at the international relations section at (0155) 24-4111(ext. 1173).

Making a Survival Pack

- In case of an earthquake or other disaster, always have a survival pack in an easy to reach place, ready to go.
- Try to keep the pack around 10kg or less
- **PACK A FIRST-AID KIT!!**
- Other important items to pack: 2 to 4 liters of WATER, some non-perishable food (canned food, crackers, chocolate, etc), a knife, a lighter, a flashlight, and a small battery powered radio.
- Pack some warm clothes too depending on the season, but remember, keep the pack light so that it doesn't become a huge burden when you are walking around!

The most important thing to remember during a natural disaster is, take care of yourself. Your once peaceful neighborhood can become a world of danger when catastrophe strikes, so stick together with your neighbors. Make sure you have food water and shelter, and keep yourself safe because rescue forces may not be able to reach you right away. What may occur during an earthquake or other disaster is very difficult to predict, but hopefully this short guide will help you prepare yourself for the challenges that may lie ahead.

Remember to come into city hall for a free disaster preparedness guide and lots of other useful information for living in Obihiro!

This September At Cinema Taiyo Obihiro

Times are subject to change
To confirm, call or check
online at:

(Nishi 3, Minami 7) Tel: (0155) 20-1525

<http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/index.html>

Title	Language	Starts - Ends
X-Men 3	English	Sep 9 - Oct
Miami Vice	English	Sep 2 - Oct
Sugar & Spice	Japanese	Sep 16 - Oct
Wild Speed 3 (Tokyo Drift)	English	Sep 16 - Oct
Curious George	Jpn Voice Over	Sep 16 - Oct
Rafu	Japanese	Sep 2 - Oct
il Mare	English	Sep 23 - Oct



Masked Rider and Go Ranger	Japanese	Sep 9 - 29
Udon	Japanese	Aug 26 - Sep 29
Superman Returns	English	Aug 19 - Oct
United 93	English	Sep 1 - Sep 8
Mission Impossible III	English	Aug 1 - Sep 8
Tales from Earthsea (Ghibli Studios)	Japanese	July 29 - Oct
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	English	Jul 22 - Sep 22
Nihon Chinbotsu	Japanese	Jul 15 - Sep 29
Deguchi no nai Umi (Ocean with no exit)	Japanese	Sep 16 - Oct

Volunteers Wanted!!! Introduce your culture to the people of Obihiro! This is just one of many our projects aimed at promoting international understanding among the local residents of Obihiro through learning about other cultures. For foreign residents, this is a chance to get to know and communicate with local residents, and introduce your own country and culture.

Many foreign residents have helped us in the past, but our numbers are thinning now and we need your help! Some example classes are cooking, games, language teaching, or just a general introduction of your country. You would be teaching a group of 5 or more Obihiro residents, and you can teach whatever you like or whatever you know best.

We would be very very happy to hear from you if you are interested in participating in this project!!!

So please contact us at the TIRC for more information.

Tel:0155-34-0122 Email:tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp

Or stop by @ Nishi 20, Minami 6 Obihiro-shi



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What's Happening in Obihiro?

can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Joy English Academy and

online at www.city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp

"WHIO?" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International Relations Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the International Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 24-4111 (ext. 4173) or send e-mail to WHIO Editing Team at international@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp