

1. Disasters in Tochigi City and Disaster Preparedness

In recent years, many disasters have occurred throughout Japan, including heavy rain and earthquakes.

In Tochigi City, the torrential rains in 2015 and typhoons in 2019 caused flooding and landslides, etc. leading to heavy damage.

Tochigi City created a documentary video "Tochigi City Disaster Memories." Anyone can watch it on the "Tochigi City Official YouTube Channel".

Now, learning from the "Memories of Disaster" again, it is important to be prepared for disasters.

One means of preparation is to gather information with smartphone applications or on the Internet to understand what is happening and where.

If an "alert level 4" is issued, such as during heavy rain, the action that residents should take is to evacuate from dangerous areas. It is important to know in advance what "alert level" and "evacuation information" mean and what actions you should take.

Things to take with you when evacuating include cash, valuables such as insurance cards, medicine, hygiene products, and emergency food. Including drinking water, premade foods, snacks, and other daily necessities that you may think necessary. These items should be packed in a backpack in advance.

Evacuation sites are designated centers such as elementary schools and community centers established by the city, as well as the homes of relatives and friends in safe areas, and if your home is in a safe location, not leaving your home is also a form of "evacuation."

To avoid the flooding of vehicles, Tochigi City has an agreement with supermarkets and pachinko parlors in the city to allow their rooftop parking lots to be used as evacuation sites for vehicles.

To avoid any problems in case of an emergency, you should decide in advance with your family and friends where to evacuate to.

The Kyokuto Tochigi Kuranomachi Gakushukan, where the Tochigi International Center is located, is one of the priority evacuation centers. The Disaster Multilingual Support Center will be opened here, so if you are a foreign resident and need to evacuate, please use this center.

2. Prevention of Heat Stroke and Corona Infection

Wearing a mask is an important measure against the new strain of corona virus. However, wearing masks during high temperature and high humidity in the summer may increase the risk of heat stroke.

The government has decided on a new approach to mask wearing from the perspective of both heat stroke prevention and prevention of corona infection.

It is recommended that people remove their masks when outdoors when they are at least 2 meters away from others or when they are within that distance but not engaged in conversation.

It is not necessary to wear a mask when walking, running, walking or biking to work or school outdoors.

Indoors, if you can maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from a person and are not engaged in conversation, it may not be necessary to wear a mask.

If you do wear a mask, avoid heat by adjusting the temperature and humidity through air conditioning, fans, or ventilation, and hydrate frequently.

Even if you do not feel thirsty, drink a glass of water every hour, before and after bathing and after waking up.

If you sweat a lot, do not forget to replenish your salt levels.

3. Call for "Utamaro Road Trip" Performers

The 11th Utamaro Festival will be held from October 15 to 23 this year.

Utamaro was an ukiyoe artist active in the Edo period and famous for his paintings of beautiful women. He is considered to have had a connection with Tochigi City.

Various events will be held during the festival, and on Saturday, October 15, "Utamaro Dochu" will be held, inspired by the world Utamaro painted.

Currently, we are looking for performers for "Utamaro Dochu". There will be 14 performers throughout 11 roles, including oiran, geisha, females in their 20s, female landlord, Utamaro, an umbrella-holder, and an ogre. There are also roles for children from 5th grade to junior high school.

Those who wish to perform must choose the role of their choice and submit the designated application form and three colored photographs. The deadline for applications is Friday, August 19. Nationality is not a factor. Foreign residents are also eligible to perform.

For inquiries about applications, please contact the Utamaro Utilizing Town Development Council Secretariat in the Kura-no-Machi Section on the 3rd floor of Tochigi City Hall, or call 0282-21-2573. Please call 0282-21-2573.