

## 1. Earthquake preparedness at home

Do you know how much the area where you live would shake in a large earthquake? In the event of a major earthquake directly under Tochigi City, most areas in the city are expected to shake at an intensity of 6 or higher, and some areas at an intensity of 7.

Have you taken measures to prevent closets and cabinets from falling over or their contents from falling out?

People can become trapped under a piece of furniture, or falling furniture can block an entrance or scatter dishes and other items on the floor, creating a hazardous situation. Please take regular countermeasures by using anti-tipping products.

In a disaster such as an earthquake that affects a large area, the number of victims may be large, and infrastructure such as water, power, communication, and transportation networks may be severely damaged. Therefore, it is important to prepare an "emergency supply" to last from the time a disaster strikes until the chaos subsides. Stockpile at least a three-day supply, and preferably a one-week supply.

One thing you need to be prepared for during an earthquake is water. After an earthquake, the water supply may be cut off for an extended period of time. It is a good idea to have at least 3 liters of drinking water per person per day.

In addition to the water supply being cut off, toilets may become unusable due to damage to the sewage system. Portable toilets, which come with a waste bag and coagulant, are useful. Prepare enough food for 6 servings per person per day as stockpiling more food than you normally eat is also an excellent way to prepare for an earthquake.

Please take another look at earthquake preparedness at your home.

## 2. Proper separation of garbage

In January, accidents occurred in the cities of Ohira and Iwafune due to smoke from garbage trucks.

The cause was the presence of small rechargeable batteries and aerosol cans without holes, which were not supposed to be incinerated.

In recent years, there have been more than 100 fires per year at the Tochigi Clean Plaza, mainly caused by small rechargeable batteries and aerosol cans that were mixed with other trash.

Such fires not only cause damage to vehicles and treatment facilities, making it impossible to dispose of the waste, but also have the potential to cause serious accidents that could kill workers and residents.

Small rechargeable batteries should be placed in collection bins at cooperating stores in the city or at the collection bins located at the city hall, each general branch office, and the Tochigi Clean Plaza.

For aerosol cans and gas cartridges, please use up the contents, drill two or more holes clearly, circle the holes, and separate the aerosol cans from other non-recyclable garbage and dispose of them in separate bags with the contents visible.

Please follow the rules and dispose of your waste properly.

### **3. Do not pour oil or garbage down the sink**

If oil is poured down the kitchen sink, the oil will cool and solidify, becoming a solid that sticks to the inside of the drainpipe. These solids then cause slow flow and clogged drains.

Similarly, food waste can clog drains when poured down the kitchen sink.

To prevent this, take the following precautions to keep oil and garbage out of the sewer system:

Do not pour leftover oil down the drain. Use a commercially available coagulant to solidify the oil before disposing of it in the trash.

Wipe up oil on pans, dishes, etc. with paper towels before washing.

Do not flush leftover soup from cup noodle soup, etc. into the sink but absorb it with paper such as a paper towel before disposing of it in the trash.

Do not put vegetable waste in the drain.

Do not flush water-insoluble paper other than toilet paper, diapers, etc. in the toilet or kitchen.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## 4. About Tochigi's Strawberries

Tochigi Prefecture has been Japan's largest producer of strawberries for more than 50 consecutive years, making it known as the Strawberry Kingdom. Tochigi Prefecture has long hours of sunlight in winter, and makes the best use of winter sunlight to grow sweet and delicious strawberries in greenhouses. In addition, there is a large temperature difference between day and night, which is suitable for growing strawberries.

Among the strawberry kingdom of Tochigi Prefecture, Tochigi City is the second largest strawberry producing area after Moka City. The Tochigi Prefectural Agricultural Experiment Station "Strawberry Research Institute," the only research institute in Japan specializing in strawberries, is located in Otsuka-machi. Tochtome, a representative strawberry variety developed here, currently accounts for 30% of the nation's strawberry acreage.

In addition, the large-grained "Sky Berry," the recently popular "Tochiaika," and the white strawberry "Milky Berry" are also varieties produced at the Strawberry Research Institute, making Tochigi City, in a sense, the "home of strawberries."

Strawberries contain anthocyanin and vitamin C, which are known as antioxidants. It is said that if you eat five large strawberries a day, you can get enough vitamin C for a day.

There are also tourist farms in the city where visitors can enjoy strawberry picking, such as "Iwafune Fruit Park" and "Aguri no Sato."

During strawberry season, eat fresh strawberries that are grown here and stay healthy.