

1. Recruitment of Tochigi City Fire Brigade Members

The Tochigi City Fire Brigade operates on the spirit of “protect our town ourselves.” Members include company employees, self-employed individuals, university students, and others, both men and women, who work daily to ensure local safety and security. It is the most accessible and community-centered fire organization and plays a crucial role in local disaster prevention.

However, membership has been declining in recent years. Tochigi City Fire Brigade is recruiting new members to join its activities.

Qualifications: Anyone 18 or older who lives, works, or studies in Tochigi City may join, including foreign residents. Certain conditions apply, such as Japanese language ability, residency status, and recommendation from the local neighborhood association. Fire brigade members are part-time special local government employees. While foreign members have some activity restrictions, they are expected to assist as interpreters and participate in fire prevention awareness campaigns.

Currently, seven foreign members are active in Tochigi City. This is an opportunity to contribute to your community, protect your loved ones, and become a valued member whom others can rely on.

If interested, please contact the Fire Administration Division at 0282-23-3527 or the Tochigi City International Center.

2. City Hall Year-End and New Year Notice

Tochigi City Hall, including the main office and branch offices, will be closed from December 27, 2025, to January 4, 2026. Submissions for birth, marriage, and death registrations will be accepted at the security office at the southwest corner of the first floor of the main building.

Garbage collection will follow the usual schedule on December 27, 29, 30, 31, and January 5.

Direct drop-off at Tochigi Clean Plaza is available on December 27, 29, 30, 31, and January 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on December 31, when the hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please separate your waste correctly, as at garbage collection stations.

Fire incidents from lithium-ion batteries have occurred, so proper separation is essential.

Fees: 250 yen per 10 kg. Only household waste generated within Tochigi City is accepted.

You may use a transparent bag instead of a designated bag so the contents are visible.

Follow staff instructions and unload your waste according to type.

3. Influenza Prevention

Influenza is a respiratory infection caused by the influenza virus and should be distinguished from common cold syndromes.

Main transmission occurs via tiny droplets from coughing or sneezing. Symptoms appear suddenly after 24–72 hours of incubation, including high fever, headache, joint pain, and muscle aches. Influenza can lead to bronchitis, pneumonia, and severe illness.

Influenza vaccination does not fully prevent infection but reduces the severity of symptoms. Its effectiveness lasts about two weeks to five months after vaccination. It is recommended to receive the vaccine before influenza season.

Respiratory infections, including influenza, can be prevented by basic measures: cough etiquette, handwashing, avoiding crowded or enclosed spaces, proper ventilation, and wearing masks. Stay home if feeling unwell. If you have fever or other symptoms, contact a medical institution by phone first.