

Disaster-related Japanese Vocabulary List

注意報	Chūihō	Advisory. A forecast when there is risk of damage, and calls for alertness. Often in the form of “○○ <i>chuihō</i> .” <i>Ōame-chuihō</i> = heavy rain advisory.
警報	Keihō	Warning. A forecast when there is risk of significant damage, and calls for vigilance. Often in the form of “○○ <i>keihō</i> .” <i>Ōame-keihō</i> = heavy rain warning, <i>kōzui-keihō</i> = flood warning.
特別警報	Tokubetsu-keihō	Emergency warning. This is announced when the situation is much more serious than the standard for <i>keihō</i> . If <i>tokubetsu-keihō</i> goes into effect, immediately take action to protect your life.
暴風雨	Bōfūu	Storm. Intense wind and rain.
暴風域	Bōfūiki	Storm area. An area near a typhoon or a low-pressure area where the average wind speed is over 25 m/s (56 mph) or has the possibility of reaching those speeds.
風速	Fūsoku	Wind speed. Usually expressed in meters/second (m/s).
余震	Yoshin	Aftershocks. These earthquakes occur after the main earthquake, and vary in size and frequency. Can continue for several days.
津波	Tsunami	A very large wave that can come after an earthquake.
避難	Hinan	Evacuation. To escape to a safer place during a disaster.
避難所	Hinan-jo	Shelter/Refuge/Evacuation center. Places where those who lost their homes due to a disaster can temporarily live.
避難場所	Hinan-basho	Evacuation area. Places to temporarily evacuate during a disaster.
避難勧告	Hinan-kankoku	Evacuation advisory. A recommendation to evacuate as announced by the mayor. This occurs in situations when the possibility of harm to people is high.
避難指示	Hinan-shiji	Evacuation order. This is given when danger is imminent, and is stronger than <i>hinan-kankoku</i> .
高潮	Takashio	High tide. A phenomenon in which the tide level is considerably higher than normal.
洪水	Kōzui	Flood. A natural disaster that occurs as a result of overflowing rivers due to heavy rain or snowmelt.
浸水	Shinsui	Flood/Inundation. To be steeped in water. For water to seep inside. (E.g. <i>Yukaue-shinsui</i> = inundation above floor level)
崖くずれ	Gake-kuzure	Landslide. Earth and sand on steep slopes crumble and fall due to heavy rain or earthquakes.
警戒	Keikai	Vigilance/Alert/Caution. To be careful just in case.
倒壊	Tōkai	Destruction/Collapse.
通行止め	Tsūkō-dome	Road closure. To not be able to pass through.
被災者	Hisaisha	Victim of a disaster.
安否確認	Anpi-kakunin	Finding out if someone is safe.
行方不明	Yukue-fumei	Missing. Someone's whereabouts are unknown.
非常食	Hijō-shoku	Emergency rations. Food that is stored in case of an emergency.
炊き出し	Takidashi	To cook and distribute rice during a disaster.
停電	Teiden	Blackout. Electrical power outage.
断水	Dansui	Water outage. Running water stops.
り災証明書	Risai-shōmeisho	A document that describes the amount of damage to your property that was caused by a disaster.
仮設住宅	Kasetsu-jūtaku	Temporary housing. Simple homes that are built for those who lost their homes in a disaster.