

# Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Response Timelines

## Hyogo Prefecture



### Background and Purpose of Project

As a Nankai trough earthquake may occur in the near future, it is necessary to prepare for it.

Devising an action plan in advance was deemed effective for dealing with a disaster smoothly in the initial emergency response period after an earthquake or tsunami occurs. (About a week from the occurrence of the disaster).

### Outline of Project

An action plan arranged in a timeline was created for all Hyogo prefectural government organisations to use according to a chronological order of events.

It is used as a checklist to confirm the progress of disaster response and decide priorities for operations in line with how the situation has developed and how many staff are available.

### Characteristics of Action Plan

#### 1. Timeline Format

-Main targets that should be achieved in each time frame are set for each operational field. (One version each for weekday daytime and holiday night-time, as staff availability will vary.)

-To set targets, the disaster reduction planning division worked out draft targets, asked other related prefectural government sections their opinions and made necessary adjustments.

#### 2. Three-Part Composition for Ease of Use

-Comprehensive Table: Designed to get an overall picture of events and actions.

-Phase Slips: Checklists of targets that should be

achieved by specified times.

-List of Responsible Sections and Organisations: Sections and organisations related to specific targets are listed.

### 3. Time Frames and Division of Operations

-The week after the disaster occurs is divided into Phases 1 - 9.

-Actions that should be carried out are classified into 10 fields from A to J, depending on the types of operations rather than the sections involved.

(A. General Management, B. Response to Tsunami, C. Search and Rescue, D. Medical Services, E. Emergency Aid for Evacuees, F. Roads, Ports and Railroads, G. Secondary Disaster Prevention, H. Handling of Bodies, I. Home Restoration, Life Reconstruction, J. Responses by Prefectural Staff and Offices)

In November 2015, mock disaster response headquarters were established and a drill was carried out in accordance with an action plan.

### Features and Advanced Aspects

◆Prototype for Earthquake Response Timeline at Prefectural Level

-It is clear what operations should be initiated, when they should be initiated by, and the time frame they should be completed in.

-Parties concerned can share information on the current situation and plans for the future.

◆Conversion of Implicit Disaster Response Knowledge (Knowledge from Experience) gained from Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

into Codified Knowledge

-Thanks to the checklists, none of the planned disaster response measures will be overlooked.

-Items that should be discussed at the disaster response headquarters in each phase can be determined in advance.

- ◆Selected Best Policy Measure (in Disaster Reduction and Crisis Management Area) in Fiscal 2015 Contest of Advanced Policy Measures by the National Governors' Association

## Effects of Project

- ◆It is clear what operations should be initiated, when they should be initiated by, and the time frame they should be completed in.
- ◆It has become possible for the parties concerned to share information on the current situation and plans for the future.
- ◆It has become clear in advance what the disaster response headquarters should focus discussions on in each phase.
- ◆It has become easier to set priorities in operations in each phase.
- ◆Timeline-style checklists have made it easier to prevent disaster response measures from being overlooked, even for officials who have just joined their current sections.

## Problems and Responses

### ◆Before Project Implementation

An objective had been set to create an action plan for disaster response measures in advance and awareness had been raised, but no clear image was shared regarding the appropriate format, style, or content.

Research into similar projects at other prefectures found few materials that could be relied on. For more clues, the scope of the research was expanded to include papers by researchers presented at government committee and academic society conferences, etc., as well as measures by

FEMA (the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency) and others.

### ◆After Start of Project

In this project, a timeline style was adopted. While no such action plans for earthquake or tsunami disasters existed at the prefectural level, there were typhoon disaster response actions plans in this style. But there were still no materials that showed in a comprehensive way who should do what and when. Especially lacking were materials on specifically when to take action.

To identify what actions were taken at what junctures, research was conducted into records of past disasters including the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and a major earthquake at the Awaji Island in 2013. In addition, much advice was obtained from victims of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and experts.

## Outlook

Additional drills in accordance with the action plan will help improve capabilities to deal with disasters. This action plan timeline will be a prototype for all prefectures facing risks of earthquake and tsunami disasters and will hopefully become a standard.

## Reference URL

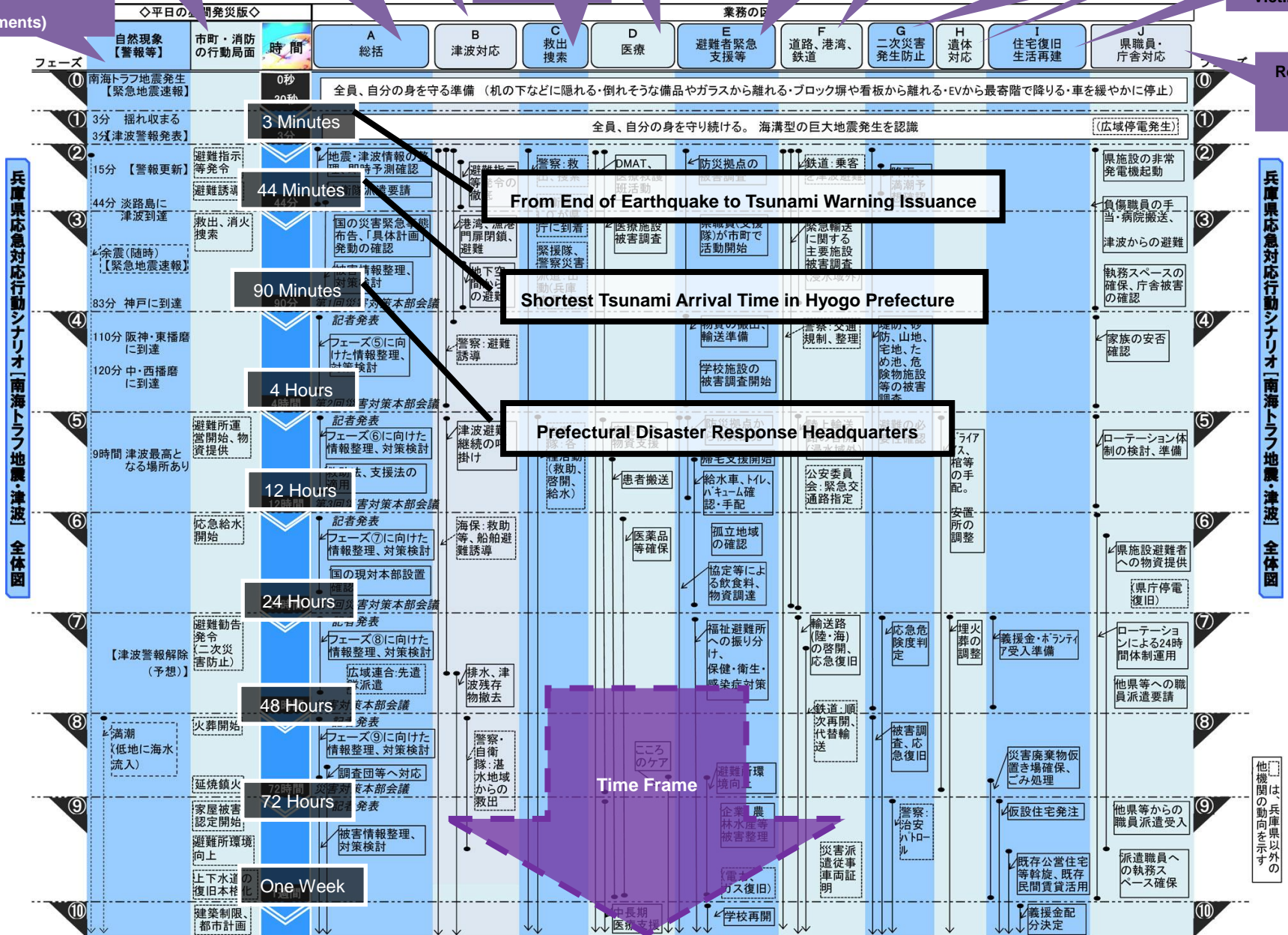
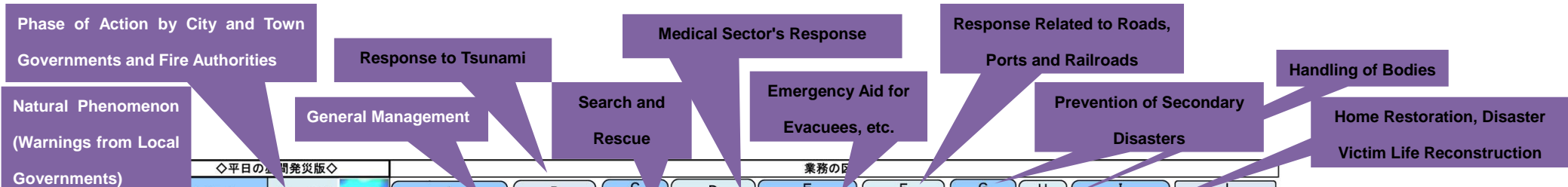
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他機関の動向を示す