

(英語)

余震について

### **Aftershocks**

One month has passed since the last major earthquake happened. However, many people may feel uneasy because of the frequently occurring aftershocks.

As you may know, a first large earthquake is called a main quake/shock. This is often followed by a subsequent quake called an aftershock. The main shock of March 11, which set a record of magnitude 9.0, was so large that aftershocks with an intensity of 5 or more on the Japanese seismic intensity have occurred 408 times in the the past month. These aftershocks occur less frequently as time goes by. However, another strong aftershock can sometimes happen in the same area, or even in a distant location.

If a strong aftershock occurs in an area strongly shaken by recent earthquakes, it may exacerbate the damage by causing houses to collapse and mudslides to happen. You should keep away from damaged houses and cliffs in the affected areas, and also stay alert for tsunami warnings and earthquake alarms, as the aftershocks can sometimes generate tsunamis.