

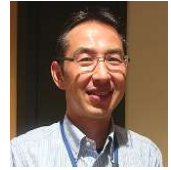
The importance of being prepared for big natural disasters and creating a functional system
From the experience of Typhoon #15 [Oi voluntary disaster prevention group "Kawasemi"]

Incharge of editing: Yutaka Haga Help by: Yukari Nabeta

NIHON University Crisis Management Department Associate Professor: Hidehiro Suzuki
(Manager of Bunkyo-ku crisis management and in charge of system management for disaster prevention)



Aired 2019/9/26 NHK Radio NRadio
Cast: Tomoyuki Hatakeyama · Hitomi Kurosaki



He along with students came together to Oi ward on 9/18.

After seeing bluesheets all over residential areas and shelters in Kisarazu, Tateyama and Chikura, they realized how big this disaster was.

Many of the residence were stuck waiting at their broken homes and were described as "home refugee"

- Too far from the shelter because they lived in the mountains · Have to bring elders and/or children with them · Cannot go by themselves
- not knowing what is happening etc., they were left staying in their house.

As the blackout continued on, there were no clear information and those vulnerable victims of the disaster felt abandoned.

It was not doing a good job of protecting the weak and the sensitive victims.

→ Rather than saying "Since no one was asking for help, the prefecture and country cannot do anything", the problem was really the lack of

understanding the situation (phones were not connecting, not understand what was happening)

People also had problems retreating the shelter, not being able to communicate with the outside in the past as well,

with East Japan disaster and Kumamoto earthquake and still the administration as not improved and did not support enough.

- Although generators and such were in stock, since there was no demand for it, they did not provide it. These kind of information came out where they were not accomadating to the victims and made them suffer. They also feared that only some people were receiving the service and unfair treatement was happening.
- · The places tthat were damaged the most did not receive information

In stead of waiting, it is important to go to the site.

Out of all the areas that were effected by Typhoon #15 disaster, Minamiboso-shi, Oi ward was able to maintain a decent daily life

I will be inroducing what happened in the main shelter, Oi Seinenkan and the hearing that happened there.

→ The location is in the mountains, relatively remote area with many of the residents in their 60s and 70s

When the East Japan Earthquake happened, they took it personally and thought about how to prepare on their own

as they realize that the administartion will not be suporting them in their remote area. **They were incorporating prepartion in daily life.**

At the point of the typhoon was approaching, there were 4 residents waiting at Seinenkan, checking updates on the disaster,

preparing the generators, cutting any fallen trees on the road with chainsaw and communicaaing by phone about emergency logisitics before the town went into blackout

Once the phone stopped working, they started to communicate orally.

It wasn't that they put in extra effort than other disaster preventions, but the residence have created a community where they see each other often, face-to-face.

Since there are a lot of people, we were not able to all meet often, but we made the effort to have everyone play a role in it.

Looking at how the administration functions, it seems to be divided and scattered.

Health and Welfare Department and Disaster Prevention Department are not working together. Compared to that, what you can see in Oi-ward is the power of the residence supporting the community.

→ **Oi ward residence are self-aware of the importance of protecting the community** · · A small amount of electricity · Bath · Food

Providing those to the extent they can. They understand that there is a limit to it what they can do.

The reason why many voluntary disaster preventions are not working is that they are approaching administrations first.

Unable to make their own decisions, they are not independent and not freeing themselves to organize things on their own.

In the end the focus of prevention and dealing with disaster is the people.

When disaster occurs, going back to the community and protecting the elders, person with disabilities and children should be the utmost priority and it is important to build awareness and societal agreement.