



1. Aftermath of the heavy rain (Gyokuto Town, Kumamoto Prefecture) 2. Vinyl greenhouses blown over by strong gusts (Yaizu City, Shizuoka Prefecture) 3. Civic Force provided air blower and other supplies to the volunteer center (Gyokuto Town, Kumamoto Prefecture) 4. Research conducted in the tornado-hit area (Makinohara City, Shizuoka Prefecture)

Series of Disasters Hit Japan This Summer: Heavy Rain, Tornado and More

Supporting People with Various Needs in Disaster Areas

This summer, from heavy rain in the Kyushu area to a tornado in Shizuoka Prefecture, natural disasters struck one after another across Japan. Civic Force immediately deployed teams to the affected areas after each incident occurred, listened to the locals' concerns, and implemented activities to meet each need.

LINE UP



Supporting Disaster-Affected Areas

- **<August Heavy Rain> Emergency Relief**
In cities of Kumamoto, Amakusa, and Yatsushiro, Kumamoto Prefecture
- **<September Shizuoka Tornado> Assistance in Affected Areas**
Interpreter dispatch for affected foreign residents
- **<Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture> Reconstruction Support Project after Wildfire**
Salon by high school students at temporary housing
- **NPO Partner Projects**
 - Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Heavy Rain: Reconstruction support
 - Great East Japan Earthquake: Passing down memories, nurturing storytellers



Creating an Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

- **Emergency Preparedness Drill for Major Disasters**
Kainan City, Wakayama Prefecture
- **Japan Professional Baseball Players Association (JPBPA) Disaster Assistance Fund (Players Fund) Disaster Preparedness Event in Ise City, Mie Prefecture**



Let's get those supplies and services to the people who need them.

Good Links

Comic Published

Good Links, a Bridge Between Companies and Support Groups

Introduction page launched

Good Links is an online matching platform connecting companies and support groups. Its newly published Landing Page (LP) introduces their activities in an easy-to-read comic. The platform helps to transfer unused company assets including over-stocked novelties, near-expired daily use items, and dormant inventories to local support groups in need. Beyond emergency assistance in times of disasters, it also contributes to regular welfare and local activities. From registration and matching to delivery, the platform provides a one-stop support.

Scan for details





Supporting
Disaster-Affected
Areas

2025 Disasters in Review

Survivor Accounts from Disaster Sites

Kumamoto Prefecture

Assistance Activities Conducted Over Vast Areas Impacted by Heavy Rain

In early August 2025, record-breaking heavy rains struck mainly in the Kyushu region and caused landslides and floods in many areas. From August 13, Civic Force dispatched staff to Kumamoto Prefecture, which suffered damages over extensive areas, to survey the needs of affected people and provide support.



Disaster site still showing the scars of flooding (Yatsushiro City)

KUMA
MOTO

Tamana City and Gyokuto Town

Providing Supplies in Sweltering Heat and Lending High-Pressure Cleaning Machines



Left: Interview survey at the Social Welfare Council of Tamana City
Right: Delivering relief goods through SEMA

Floodwaters reached waist-level at a major intersection in Tamana City, while the Konoha River breached its banks in Gyokuto Town, causing significant property damage.

Civic Force supplied sports drinks, tea, hand towels, garbage bags and other goods through the Social Emergency Management Alliance (SEMA) to support the volunteers

working in sweltering heat.

It also lent high-pressure cleaning machines to Omoyai, an organization based in Saga Prefecture, to remove mud.

We really appreciate the hydration support during outdoor activities in 37C degrees heat!
– volunteer staff

Amakusa City and Kamiamakusa City

Helping Unload Equipment and Materials and Chest Freezer Installation

Floodwaters inundated the historic Gion Bridge – a designated cultural property – and the surrounding central commercial district in Amakusa City. Nearby in Kamiamakusa City, Matsushima Town reported severe flooding, with water levels reaching up to 1.4 meters.

Civic Force helped unload approximately 5,000 equipment items and materials at the Disaster Volunteer Center and install a chest freezer to provide cold drinking water for volunteers



Left: Helping unload equipment and materials



Right: Installing a chest freezer at the Disaster Volunteer Center

Yatsushiro City and Hikawa Town

Provided Air Circulators, Futon Dryers and Other Equipment and Materials

Yatsushiro City emerged as the hardest-hit area in Kumamoto Prefecture, recording one fatality and extensive residential damage. A total of 1,230 homes were inundated above floor level, with an additional 993 affected below floor level; Hikawa Town also reported widespread residential flooding.

Futon dryers are so helpful for controlling moisture in evacuation centers and for keeping evacuees warm from the morning and evening chills!
– Yatsushiro City staff

Civic Force leveraged the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association's (JPBPA) Players Fund to provide Yatsushiro City with 50 air circulators and 3 futon dryers. These items were used to dry inundated houses and improve the living conditions of evacuation centers. Furthermore, Civic Force distributed equipment to Hikawa Town, including high-powered floor fans, air blowers, rechargeable transport vehicles, and portable air-conditioning units to facilitate ongoing recovery efforts.



Left: Floor fans, portable air-conditioners, air blowers and other items



Upper Right: 50 air circulators provided



Lower Right: 3 futon dryers provided

Many disasters struck various regions of Japan again this year, beginning with the Ofunato wildfire in February, followed by the heavy rains in August and the tornadoes caused by Typhoon 15 in September. In this issue, we report on the emergency and recovery assistance activities we have carried out to date.

SHIZUOKA

Shizuoka Prefecture Assistance Activities in Areas Affected by Tornado



On September 5, 2025, Typhoon 15 triggered a series of linear rainbands resulting in torrential rainfall and severe gusts across Shizuoka Prefecture. Concurrently, the third largest tornado ever recorded in Japan struck Makinohara City, Yoshida Town and Yaizu City, Shizuoka Prefecture, leaving one person dead. The disaster caused extensive damage to over 2,300 homes and numerous agricultural facilities, with some structures suffering complete roof loss.

Civic Force dispatched staff to the hardest-hit areas of Makinohara City, Yaizu City and Yoshida Town to conduct needs assessments in consultation with disaster victims and administrative agencies. Civic Force coordinated the deployment of volunteer interpreters to Makinohara City and Yoshida Town where many foreign residents reside, to assist survivors facing language barriers.

※Deployment of volunteer interpreters was conducted in cooperation with Citizen's Network for Global Activities (CINGA) and Resource Center for Multicultural Community Tokai.

Houses damaged by the tornado

Makinohara City Facilitating Disaster Consultations for Foreign Nationals

In partnership with volunteer interpreters and the Shizuoka Bar Association, Civic Force produced disaster assistance guides in English and Portuguese. These resources were distributed at local consultation hubs and during door-to-door outreach. Three months after the disaster, while residential repairs are underway, the recovery process is only at the midpoint. Civic Force remains committed to exploring long-term pathways for rebuilding livelihoods and supporting the comprehensive restoration of affected communities.

We conducted door-to-door visits with volunteer interpreters to provide consultation to disaster victims.



Interview survey conducted at a consultation desk in Makinohara City

IWATE

Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture Continuing Wildfire Recovery Support



In late February 2025, a wildfire broke out in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture. The fire spread across approximately 3,370 hectares – about 10% of the city's total area – and damaged 226 buildings. This was the largest disaster of its kind in Japan since 1989. Civic Force initiated immediate emergency assistance at evacuation centers and has since transitioned to long-term recovery efforts. Following the construction of temporary housing, our focus shifted to enhancing living conditions and fostering community ties among displaced residents.

Takonoura and Ryori Area

Supporting Salon Activities in Collaboration with High School Students

In June and July, Civic Force hosted Aozora Ochakko (open-air tea gatherings) in the Takonoura and Ryori areas, partnering with a group of local, volunteer high school students called the Kesen Area Student Volunteers and other local organizations. At the time, the residents in temporary housing did not have a community gathering space, and so Civic Force organized activities such as open-air tea gatherings and flower planting to encourage interaction among residents.



1. Inspecting changes in burned areas with volunteer high school students
2. Residents interact while planting flowers
3. Flowers brightening up temporary housing
4. Aozora Ochakko held at Takonoura Temporary Housing

This is the first time we've gathered to talk since moving into temporary housing, so I'm very happy!
 – Salon participant

Civic Force will continue to provide disaster recovery support tailored to local needs in collaboration with the area's youth.

Preparing for Large-Scale Disasters in Non-Emergency Times Through Public-Private Collaboration

In Preparation for the Next Large-Scale Disaster Emergency Drill Held in Kainan City, Wakayama Prefecture

In March 2025, Civic Force concluded an agreement with Wakayama Prefecture and the Wakayama Pachinko and Pachislot Cooperative Association to ensure the distribution of relief supplies to "displaced persons" staying outside of official evacuation centers. Based on this agreement, Civic Force conducted an emergency drill in Kainan City on October 6 in cooperation with the city.

The opening ceremony, attended by Kainan City Mayor Masami Jinde and Association Chairman Takayuki Kin, underscored the vital role of public-private collaboration. During the exercise, Civic Force mobilized essential equipment—including portable power units and sanitation tools—from the city's central warehouse to the parking lot and in-store space of pachinko parlor LOVE Kainan. This facility was selected for its expansive premises and suitable infrastructure,



1: From left: Takayuki Kin (Chairman of Wakayama Pachinko and Pachislot Cooperative Association), Masami Jinde (Mayor of Kainan City), and Kaori Neki (Executive Director of Civic Force) 2: LOVE Kainan, a Disaster Support Cooperative Store 3: Transportation of supplies from Kainan City's central stockpile warehouse 4: Demonstration on how to use the emergency toilet

I felt that a pachinko parlor is a very useful facility for families with children in case of a disaster.
— Event participant

making it an ideal distribution hub for affected residents. To enhance local disaster resilience, the event featured interactive workshops for residents, including emergency food tastings (alpha rice), demonstrations of emergency sanitation kits, and lectures on disaster prevention.

Following lessons learned from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, Civic Force further strengthened local readiness by providing Kainan City with 36,000 emergency toilet kits and logistics equipment, such as roll box pallets. These measures ensure a rapid, coordinated response system is in place for future regional emergencies.

* LOVE Kainan is a Disaster Support Cooperative Store which, based on the agreement, provides evacuees with toilets and food in case of disaster.

Demonstration of Italian-Style Shelter Operation Training Held in Saga Prefecture

On October 29 and 30, Civic Force participated in a disaster response demonstration in Imari City, Saga Prefecture. Hosted by the Society for Disaster Shelter and Refuge Life and ShelterOne (a Shimizu Corporation venture), the exercise focused on the rapid deployment of "Italian-style" emergency shelters. Civic Force staff trained on setting up a high-quality shelter within 48 hours equipped with a toilet, a kitchen and beds (TKB).

At a feedback meeting, positive opinions were heard: "The air-conditioned shelter is comfortable." "Private space is maintained to provide a sense of security." "It's possible to live without constraints even with pets."

Civic Force remains committed to training and the continuous improvement of evacuation standards to ensure dignity and safety in future disaster responses.



It is important for supporters to shift their mindset towards making evacuation facilities safe, secure, and comfortable places.
— Kaori Neki, Executive Director of Civic Force

Civic Force is focusing its efforts on strengthening its emergency preparedness mechanism in collaboration with local governments and private companies. This report highlights two disaster drills and two disaster prevention events conducted this autumn.

Disaster Preparedness Event Held in Ise City, Mie Prefecture



On November 22, Civic Force and the JPBPA hosted a "Disaster Preparedness Event" at Dime Stadium Ise in Mie Prefecture. The initiative engaged 130 participants, including youth from local baseball teams, as part of the JPBPA Players Fund. The JPBPA hosted the Catch Ball Classic at the same time, in which the participants competed in accuracy and speed.

The event featured six disaster prevention experience booths managed by Ise City, local companies, and local students. The participants collected a stamp at each booth by completing a hands-on experience mission. By collecting all six stamps, they received participation prizes and entered a lottery for a chance to win prizes such as baseballs autographed by professional players.

At each booth, participants learned disaster preparedness through hands-on experiences. The experiences included learning how to use a fire extinguisher, performing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) using an AED (automated external defibrillator), learning ropework for disaster situations, making slippers with newspapers, and a disaster prevention quiz game using a baseball pitching target.

In cooperation with the JPBPA, Civic Force will continue to raise awareness on disaster mitigation efforts during non-emergency times.

Scan for Details
about Players Fund



Booth 1 Prepare for Fire! Smoke and Fire Extinguisher Experience



Booth 2 Make Disaster Prevention Goods with Newspaper



Booth 3 Take the Disaster Prevention Quiz



Booth 4 Learn Ropework for Disaster Situations



Booth 5 Learn How to Perform CPR



Booth 6 Learn How to Wash in Disaster Situations



Six
Disaster Prevention
Experience
Missions Completed!

Thinking about Disaster Preparedness with Family Members Setting Up a Booth at Sky Day Festa 2025

On November 15, Civic Force participated in Sky Day Festa held at Kyushu-Saga International Airport, managing an interactive disaster preparedness booth. Participants answered a disaster preparedness quiz and then entered a lottery for a chance to win preparedness goods such as emergency backpacks, radios with flashlights, and emergency toilets. The event reached 706 participants from 230 households, providing families with a practical opportunity to discuss emergency readiness.

*This initiative was supported by seven student volunteers from Saga Women's Junior College, Saga Technical College, and other institutions.





Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Heavy Rain / Great East Japan Earthquake NPO Partner Projects to Assist Groups Working on Reconstruction



Through our NPO Partner Projects, Civic Force supports long-term recovery and reconstruction in disaster-affected regions. We are currently collaborating with organizations leading restoration efforts following the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and subsequent heavy rainfall. Additionally, we continue to partner with groups in areas impacted by the Great East Japan Earthquake to support "Passing Down Memories to Future Generations"—an initiative dedicated to preserving and sharing the lived experiences of the March 11 disaster to bolster future resilience.

— Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Heavy Rain —

Suzu Jiyu Kenkyu **Horyu Karuta Bringing Back Smiles in Affected Areas**

On September 15, the community group Jiyu Kenkyu hosted an event featuring Horyu Karuta—a set of Japanese playing cards depicting the history and landmarks of the Horyu area. Held at the Honmachi Station community hub, the initiative aims to promote emotional healing for disaster survivors. The event has successfully strengthened social ties and expanded the support network within the affected community.



Nanao Ibasho Shokudo of Tomoe Group **Bubbling Smiles of Children at Ibasho Ennichi Festival**

Tomoe, a youth support organization, operates Ibasho Shokudo—a sanctuary for children experiencing school refusal or social withdrawal. In August 2025, the group hosted the Ibasho Ennichi festival during Obon. Through traditional activities like ring toss and yo-yo fishing, the children engaged with community members of all ages, fostering social connections.



Wajima Minato **Study Tour of Wajima and Kuroshima**

On September 14, the organization Minato hosted a study tour to highlight the ecological and geological impacts in the Kuroshima area following the earthquake. Minato monitors local marine health and manages sea urchin populations to combat sea desertification. During the tour, participants observed coastlines dramatically altered by seismic upheaval, gaining an understanding of natural threats and the critical importance of disaster risk reduction.



— Great East Japan Earthquake —

Miyagi Team Okawa Future Opening Network **Okaeri Project, Remembrance Festival for Victims**

Team Okawa Future Opening Network is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the 2011 disaster by providing guided tours of the Okawa Elementary School ruins. In August, the group hosted the "Okaeri Project," a memorial event where participants honored the victims by lighting 108 handmade lanterns to "welcome back" their souls. The ceremony featured a musical performance of the original song "Kokoro-no-tsubasa" (Wings of the Heart), accompanied by a sign-language interpretation, offering a space for reflection and remembrance.



Fukushima NPO Tomioka 3.11 Discussion Group **Third Training Course for Story Teller in Sign Language**

To preserve the history of the compound disasters in Fukushima Prefecture, the NPO Tomioka 3.11 Discussion Group is spearheading a program to train sign language narrators. On October 26, 16 participants—including sign language interpreters and those hard-of-hearing—attended the third session of the training course. The group visited the Interim Storage Facilities in Okuma and the Ukedo Elementary School ruins in Namie Town. These site visits provided essential context, allowing narrators to deepen their understanding of the disaster's impact as they prepare to share Fukushima's experiences through sign language.



Fukushima Okuma Future **Discussing Futures of Earthquake Remains and Local Areas**

On October 19, the organization Okuma Future hosted the fourth annual symposium, "Discussion of Futures of Earthquake Ruins and Local Areas." Focusing on the conservation and repurposing of Okuma Town's Kumamachi Elementary School, the event re-evaluated the site's significance from diverse perspectives, including younger generations born after 2011 and new residents unfamiliar with the disaster. The symposium also facilitated an exchange on cultivating the next generation of "legacy inheritors," serving as a forum for envisioning the long-term revitalization of the region.



Check on other NPO Partner Projects here





Creating an Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

We are undertaking various efforts to develop our emergency preparedness mechanism. This page introduces media coverage of our activities and information associated with our partner organizations.

Players Fund



The Players Fund, operated by Civic Force and the JPBPA, is currently hosting crowdfunding and charity auctions from December 2025 to February 2026. We invite sports fans and the broader community to participate.

From 12/8 (Mon) Crowdfunding



From 12/8 (Mon) Charity Auction



Lectures, Courses, and Seminars

The Outreach Lecture at Primary School in Saga Prefecture

On September 4, during National Disaster Prevention Week, Civic Force conducted an outreach lecture at Ushizu Primary School in Ogi City, Saga Prefecture. Titled "Protecting Your Own Life," the session engaged 78 fourth-grade students in interactive disaster education. Through disaster-themed sugoroku (a traditional Japanese board game) and bingo, students learned emergency preparedness concepts in play.



Seminar on End-of-Life Planning and Bequest Donations

On September 26, a seminar on bequest donations, end-of-life planning and inheritance was held at Saga Prefectural Nabeshima Community Center. About thirty people, primarily local residents, participated.

Through the lecture by a judicial scrivener and a skit by theater group Kokoro-lyashitai, they learned about end-of-life planning and social contribution.

※Co-hosted with Nabeshima Community Center, the Nabeshima District Social Welfare Council, Otassha Honpo Nabeshima, Saga Future Creation Foundation and Peace Winds Japan.



Lecture at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Continence Society

On September 6, Kaori Neki gave a lecture titled, "Current State of Toilet Facilities During Disasters: Perspectives from Disaster Assistance Organizations" at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Continence Society held at SAGA Arena, Saga Prefecture.

Taking Stage at the 17th Commons Social Entrepreneurs Forum

On October 4, Kaori Neki, proposed a new form of security for Asia based on public-private partnerships and a cycle of mutual support at the 17th Commons Social Entrepreneurs Forum.



Your support for Saga Prefecture's Furusato Nozei (Hometown Tax) is welcomed!

To strengthen our readiness for future emergencies, Civic Force is conducting a Furusato Nozei (Hometown Tax) crowdfunding campaign through February 1, 2026. Your contributions directly fund life-saving operations in disaster-stricken regions. As a token of our gratitude, donors are eligible to receive regional specialties from Saga Prefecture as return gifts.

Scan for details



Media Coverage

- 25.10.08** **Newspaper** **Wakayama Shimpo**
Wakayama Prefecture and Wakayama Pachinko and Pachislot Cooperative Association conducted disaster drill, making a pachinko parlor an evacuation hub.
- 25.10.08** **Newspaper** **The Asahi Shimbun**
Relief goods distribution training at a pachinko parlor in Kainan City, Wakayama Prefecture.
- 25.10.06** **TV** **TV Wakayama**
Training for setting up supply station in Kainan City.
- 25.09.02** **Newspaper** **The Saga Shimbun**
Report on Civic Force, a disaster relief group based in Saga Prefecture, accompanying their activities in the August heavy rain disaster-affected areas (Disaster Prevention Month feature 2025)

To Business Associates

You can easily support us in various ways including donating products or services.



Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be better prepared for future disasters, we need your support. Become a monthly supporter and you can donate a fixed amount each month (in 1,000 yen units) and help prepare for future large-scale disasters.

- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation :**
Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964
- Japan Post Bank :** 00140-6-361805
[Account holder's name of the above banks is "Civic Force"]
- Credit card :** Please check the "Donate" section of the Civic Force website below →



SNS

Civic Force



Previous newsletters ▼

<https://www.civic-force.org/english/info/index.html>

Subscribe to updates from the disaster areas ▼

<https://www.civic-force.org/mailmagazine/index.html>

