Conditions of readiness system helps inform community

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Each year, Japan goes through a typhoon season, and Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) has a Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (TCCOR) system in place to help keep people informed.

However, just being informed is not enough according to CFAY Emergency Management Officer Jeff Lindaman. Lindaman states that people need to prepare before a storm gets to Yokosuka. The Naval Oceanography Antisubmarine Warfare Center (NAOC) does forecasting based on readings from around base and they also monitor the Japanese websites and their weather forecasting, but people still need to be prepared in case the situation changes quickly.

Destructive winds and rain a typhoon brings can cause damage to government or personnel property. The best way to prevent damage is to either bring lose items inside or to tie them to something that won't blow around like part of a building or a fence.

During the storm the ocean became more agitated by the wind and the waves grew in strength and intensity. When forecasters measure the ocean's condition it's called the current "sea state." "The winds from the storm drive the seas and can cause a high storm surge," said Muth. A storm surge is a large wave or series of waves that are cause by large storms like typhoons. "The waves and rain can cause flooding so that is also a concern during a storm," said NAOC Yokosuka Public Affairs Officer Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Travis Muth, in a previous interview.

Typhoons are not the only natural disaster that can effect the CFAY community. Residents also need to be ready for tsunami and earthquakes that could potentially happen in areas close to the base.

Lindaman explained that when a tsunami warning is issued the best plan is to travel uphill. He advised that while every location and neighborhood is different, traffic and construction or obstructions can change any route. The basic plan is to go uphill, any hill that will provide a safety distance from the wave is good to travel up.

Earthquakes do not give people a lot of time to respond but when shaking starts, people should get away from heavy furniture or other items that could fall down and find a safe place to wait for tremors to stop like a door way.

Personnel from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East work to remove a tree from the top of a car where the tree fell during a recent storm. Disaster preparedness in Japan means understanding that a storm can happen anytime and can cause damage to surrounding structures.

Lindaman explained that before and after natural disasters there will always be information available. People should stay tuned to the command information channels like channel 15, website, Facebook site, Youtube site, Eagle 810 radio station, big voice notifications or official email. There will also be information put out in the first floor of housing towers and at community centers.

For more information on how to stay prepared visit http://cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/index.htm and click on the preparedness checklist on the right hand side.

Disaster preparedness is everyone's responsibility

By CFAY Public Affairs

In order to be prepared for natural or man-made disasters and emergencies, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) is urging all personnel to review their emergency family action plan, update family emergency kits and take other action to ensure they are prepared for all emergency situations.

Operation Prepare. As a resource, families are encouraged to go online and utilize "Operation Prepare," which is an emergency preparedness program initiated by Commander, Navy Installations Command for community members of Navy ashore installations. The website has nearly 40 simple ready-to-use fact sheets, checklists, and forms on how to prepare for a variety of natural and man-made disasters. Visit the website at www.cnic.navy.mil/ and click on the emergency management tab for more information.

Emergency Kit. According to Operation Prepare, you need enough supplies for every family member for at least three days, maybe longer. The main items to have in your kit include water, food, and first aid supplies. Depending on your family, you may also need special items for babies, prescription medications, or supplies for your pets. You may not be at home when disaster strikes, so make smaller emergency kits to keep at work and in your car. You also need a portable kit to take with you if you go to a shelter or evacuate.

Family Plan. Further, Operation Prepare states that when a disaster happens, your family may not be together in one place. You need to pick places to meet, have contact information for everyone, and discuss in advance what you will do during various types of emergencies. Depending on the type of emergency, you may shelter in place, move to a shelter or safe haven, or evacuate. Formalizing your preparations in a written family plan is a good way to ensure everyone knows what to do when there is an emergency. Your plan needs to take into account special concerns such as caring for very young and very old family members, protecting your property, retaining critical financial or insurance records, and caring for your pets.

If there is an emergency, families need to become active in seeking out information and instructions through multiple official sources which will include;

- CFAY Channel 15
- Eagle 810 AM Radio
- CFAY Website www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka
- City of Yokosuka disaster information e-mail service, register for updates in English by emailing di-yokosuka-t@ktaiwork.jp

Emergencies can happen at any time, while at home, at work or on leave. The following are basic instructions on what to do in a few different scenarios. It is important to note that CFAY emergency responders cannot help you, if they don't know where you are.

At Fleet Activities Yokosuka:

- Stay in your home or go to the nearest base shelter.
- Initiate family emergency plan.
- Tune in for emergency instructions.

At Negishi or Ikego housing detachments

- Stay in your home or go to the nearest safe place. Do not leave the housing detachment unless instructed to do so by emergency responders.
- Initiate family emergency plan.
- Tune in for emergency instructions.
- In case of evacuation, muster at Club Takemiya (Ikego) and the Community Center (Negishi). CFAY vehicles will bring you to Yokosuka.

Off base:

- Go to the nearest safe place (home, shelter etc.) and contact your command. A Japanese evacuation shelter near your home is a safe place.
- If you attempt to move locations, tell someone or leave a clearly visible note for CFAY emergency responders. CFAY needs to be able to find you.
- CFAY will retrieve you once it is safe to do so.
- If you are near another U.S. military installation, go to the installation and check in with the installation emergency management personnel.

Cut and save

Emergency Information

Commander Fleet Activites Yokosuka (CFAY) and Negishi and Ikego Housing Detachment residents are advised to stay tuned to the following mediums for emergency information:

- CFAY Web Site: http://www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka
- CFAY Facebook page: http://www.Facebook.com/cfayokosuka
- CFAY Twitter page: http://twitter.com/cfay_yokosuka
- CFAY base Channel 15
- Eagle 810 AM Radio station
- A recorded weather message can be obtained by calling 243-5155.

The information provided will include but is not limited to notification of actions to take for severe weather and the unexpected or early dismissal of schools.

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