



This newsletter is published by Naka Ward in English and Chinese to provide foreign nationals with useful information on topics such as municipal administration, social programs and rules for everyday living in the community.

Naka Ward Town News

English Chinese

## The Season for Typhoons and Heavy Rains Is Here **Be Prepared!**



Japan experiences typhoons and heavy rains every year from June to October, and they often cause damage.

Prepare for such weather events in advance to protect yourself and others from harm.

### Serious Damage

The strong winds of typhoons can cause trees and utility poles to snap, or hurt people from being hit by objects whipped around in the air. In ongoing heavy rain, rivers can overflow (river flooding) and streets can be flooded when sewage systems and stormwater inlets can no longer handle runoff (urban flooding). Sediment disasters such as landslides can also happen when large amounts of rain soak into the ground.



Examples of damage in Naka Ward.  
Left: In Hanasaki-cho (2014). Right: In Honmoku-manzaka (2017)

### Check What You Need to Do!

**Start**

**Q** Look at the hazard maps\* for your area. Are you in a danger zone?

**No** → **Remain on standby at home**  
Remain alert and check disaster and evacuation information.

**Yes**

You may be in danger, so you need to evacuate to a safe place.

**Examples of danger areas**

- Home above or below a cliff/slope
- Home near a river or the sea

**Q** Will it take time for you to evacuate? (e.g., elderly person, person with a mobility impairment)

**Yes** → If **Warning Level 3\*\*** is announced, go to an evacuation site or a relative's or friend's home in a safe location.

**No** → If **Warning Level 4\*\*** is announced, go to an evacuation site or a relative's or friend's home in a safe location.

\* **Hazard map** See p. 3

#### \*\* Warning Level

Warning Levels are an easy-to-understand scale for determining what you need to do for heavy rainfalls and the timing for those actions. Check which areas need to evacuate and start your evacuation procedures as necessary.

Warning Level	Disaster and Evacuation Information	Action
5	Take emergency safety measures now	Life-threatening danger. Take immediate measures to protect your life!
<i>Always evacuate by Level 4</i>		
4	Evacuation order	Everyone must evacuate from dangerous locations
3	Evacuation of vulnerable persons (elderly, etc.)	The elderly and other vulnerable persons must evacuate from dangerous locations
2	Warning for heavy rains/floods/storm surges	Check your evacuation procedures
1	Early warning information	Be on alert for a disaster

# When a typhoon or heavy rain is approaching

## Make efforts to prepare ahead of time!

### Go outside only for an essential or urgent matter

- Go home early, as trains and buses may be cancelled
- Schools may close. Please check announcements from the school

### Be ready for power or water outages

- Have a headlamp, batteries, drinking water and water for practical use

### Check outside your home

- Bring items inside or tie down things that could be blown away in the wind. Also note that sheds/storage containers can be blown over.
- Close shutters or sliding storm doors
- Tape windows to strengthen them and close curtains

## Get up-to-date information!

### Check these multilingual sources for disaster prevention information

#### ● Websites

**Kanagawa Prefecture Disaster Information Portal**



**NHK World-Japan**  
(disaster and Covid-19 information in foreign languages)



**Japan Meteorological Agency**  
(Multilingual Information on Disaster Mitigation)



#### ● Twitter

**Naka Ward Disaster Information on Twitter**  
(evacuation information, etc. for Naka Ward)



#### ● Radio

**86.1 Marine FM**  
(the community broadcast station for Naka Ward)



### Grasp the situation from TV even when you don't understand Japanese

- You can get a general idea of the current situation just by watching images. So turn on the TV even if you don't understand Japanese (local program, etc.)



# How to evacuate to protect your life



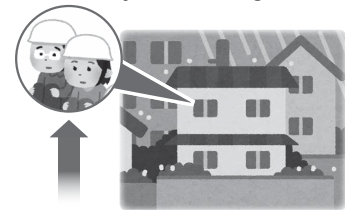
## Horizontal evacuation

Evacuate to a relative's or friend's home that is not located in the landslide hazard area/predicted flood zone or go to an evacuation site or other safe place.



## Vertical evacuation

Evacuate to the second floor or higher of a robust building or to a nearby tall building.



## Shelter in place

When evacuating outside is more dangerous than staying in place, move to the safest place in the house (an upper floor, the side of the building away from the cliff/slope, etc.).

Even when no evacuation information has been issued, you can take other actions if you feel danger.

## Evacuation sites for wind and flood damage

- 1 Mugita Seifuso..... 1-26-1 Mugita-cho
- 2 Yamamoto Elementary School ... 3-152 Yamamoto-cho
- 3 Otori Elementary School..... 1-251 Honmoku-cho
- 4 Kamidai Shukaijo ..... 2-50 Hongo-cho
- 5 Minato Sogo High School..... 231 Yamashita-cho

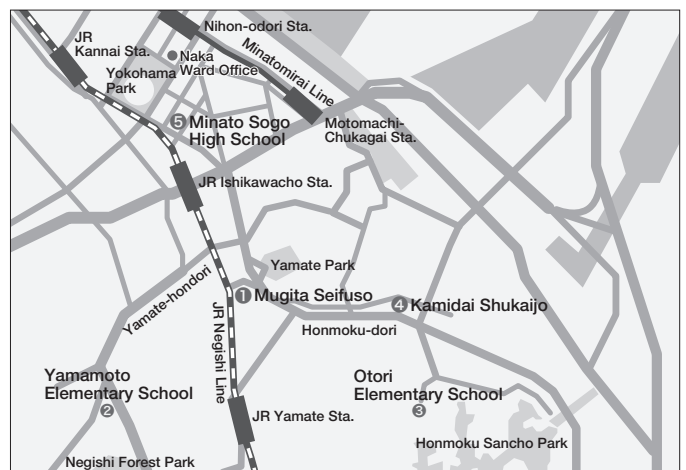
**!** Evacuate during the day using a safe route, avoiding roads along rivers, cliffs or slopes.

**!** **No emergency supplies are provided** at evacuation sites, so be sure to bring your own food, water, warm clothing, medicine, towels and other needed items. Also **wear a mask** as a measure against infectious diseases.

Note 1: Other evacuation sites will be opened according to the situation.

Note 2: Since it may be difficult to implement measures against infectious diseases at an evacuation site, shelter in place if you can safely do so. Also consider evacuating to a relative's or friend's home.

Note 3: Evacuation sites for wind and flood damage differ from the evacuation shelters that open following an earthquake with a seismic intensity (*shindo*) of 5+ or higher.



At Warning Level 3, evacuation sites will be opened for people located near cliffs/slopes, etc.

Responses to inquiries are handled in **Japanese** unless English or Chinese support is indicated.

## The 2nd Naka Ward Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Action Plan has begun

The Naka Ward Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Action Plan was created in 2017 with the aim of creating a community in which everyone can live with reassurance regardless of nationality or origins. To date, Naka Ward has moved forward with measures to promote multicultural symbiosis. A second action plan was formulated in March 2021 based on the results of these measures. The second plan will be implemented from fiscal 2021 to fiscal 2024.

### Overview Vision

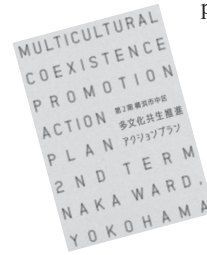
Naka Ward Residents Together for Yokohama  
— Creating a vibrant community together that will serve us into the future —  
Everyone who lives in Naka Ward is a member of our community and the City of Yokohama no matter where one comes from or what one's origins are. We aim to become a richer community and a place where each and every one of us feels valued and can live in mutual acceptance.

### Basic Goals

Enhancement of basic support + building connections within the community

Based on this plan, we will collaborate with residents and support groups to realize a town of multicultural symbiosis, where all residents can play an active role and truly feel like a member of Naka Ward community.

View the action plan here ▶



## Pregnancy classes for Chinese native speakers living in Naka Ward (with Chinese interpreters)

It can be worrying raising a child in a foreign country where your mother tongue is not understood and the customs for giving birth and raising children differ. These classes will provide opportunities for mothers-to-be to talk with others in the same situation about raising children in Japan.

- ▶ **Date/time:** Sept. 2 (Thu.), 10 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Gather by 9:45 at Naka Ward Office Main Bldg. 1F, near the information desk (Class location: Childcare Support Center "Nonbirinko")
- ▶ **Eligibility:** Pregnant Chinese native speakers living in Naka Ward and their families (10 people in total)

▶ **Cost:** Free

▶ **To apply:** Beginning Fri. July 2, send an email using the 2D code on the right.



Please include your name, address (district name only), telephone number, due date and the number of people to attend.

<Multilingual Support Center Kanagawa,  
Tel: 045-316-2770 9 a.m.–12 p.m., 1–5:15 p.m.  
(Chinese support Mon./Thu.)>

## Submit Your Child Rearing Allowance (for single parent families) Genkyo-todoke (Status Report) by August 31

Each year, recipients of "the child rearing allowance" must submit this report to confirm their present situation. If the report is not submitted, the allowance will no longer be paid. The needed documents (in Japanese) will be sent out by post. Please fill them out and return them.

▶ **Reports accepted:** Mon. Aug. 2–Tue. Aug. 31, 8:45 a.m.–5 p.m.

▶ **Submission desk:** Naka Ward Office Main Bldg. 5F

(For those whose status has already been confirmed, we will try accepting reports by post.)

<Naka Ward Office, *Kodomo Katei Shien* (Children and Families Support) Division, Tel: 045-224-8171>

Good to Know!  
About Japanese Culture



### Obon (Festival of the Dead)

During Obon, the living memorialize their ancestors and welcome their souls back for a visit. In most regions, Obon usually takes place four days in mid-August, although this can differ. Many companies close for Obon, and public transportation is often very crowded with people returning to their home town.

Each family prepares offerings and also lights a welcoming fire so their ancestors can find their way back without getting lost. Obon decorations using cucumbers and eggplants with wooden sticks for legs, are meant to represent vehicles for ancestors to come and go. The cucumber is a horse so that ancestors can come quickly, while the eggplant is a cow so that ancestors can depart leisurely.

## Second Shi-kenminzei (Municipal/Prefectural Resident Tax) Payment Due Aug. 31 (Tue.)

Persons who received a 納税通知書 (nōzei tsūchisho, Notification of Taxes) should pay at a convenience store (if the slip has a barcode) or a bank. Arranging for automatic debit from your bank account is also a convenient option (note that the initial procedures will take a bit of time).

**International Service Staff**  
Naka Ward Office, Counter 23 (2nd floor)  
English 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

International Service Staff provide assistance with matters such as guidance on Naka Ward Office activities, interpretation at various ward office counters and support for filling out certificate applications. Stop by if you would like assistance.

### Help Me Know Q&A



## Heavy rains are expected. Will the area I live be safe?

Please check the hazard maps for your specific area. Flood maps are a type of hazard map that estimates how much damage will occur from river flooding, etc. in heavy rains. Since torrential rains fall each year in Japan during the summer typhoon season, it is recommended that you check the various types of hazard maps for your area now and develop an evacuation plan accordingly.

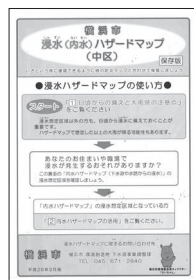
### Naka Ward Flood Hazard Map

Sets out the expected scope of flooding for overflows in the Ooka River system (Ooka River, Horiwari River, Nakamura River and Hori River).



### Yokohama City Urban Flooding Map (Naka Ward)

Provides information on water depth and areas susceptible to urban flooding (water coming from manholes, street inlets, etc.) when sewers and canals overflow.



### Yokohama City Sediment Disaster Map (Naka Ward)

Areas where damage could occur when a sediment disaster such as a landslide happens from torrential rain.



### Waiwai Disaster Prevention Map

Indicates the danger of wind and flood damage, as well as the risk of earthquake damage, for the City of Yokohama. The map also provides useful information about disaster prevention.



### Areas subject to immediate evacuation orders

Areas where a sediment disaster warning is issued at the same time as an evacuation order.







Go for a Visit

# A wonderful traditional Naka Ward event

## *Ouma Nagashi* (horse figure floating)

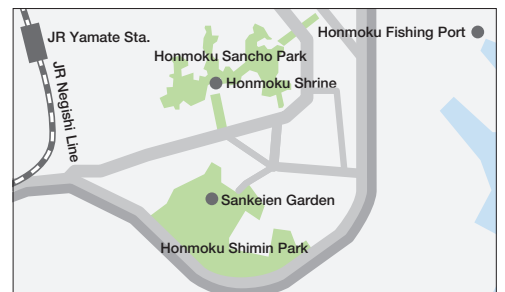
Traditional festivals and events are held throughout Japan in the summer. Naka Ward has its own traditional event dating back more than 400 years to the Muromachi Period.



Naka Ward's *Ouma Nagashi* is designated as an Intangible Folk Property of Kanagawa Prefecture and one of the prefecture's Fifty Selected Folk Performances. It is a purification ritual in which special straw figures are floated out to sea to remove evil from the town. This ritual began in 1566 during a period of warring and continued into the difficult post-war confiscation years as well. It was held for the 455th time in 2020. From the latter part of the 19th century, *Ouma Nagashi* has been held according to the solar calendar on a Sunday in early August. Previously it was held on the day of a spring tide (when the difference between low and high tide is greatest).

*Kaya* grass (thatch) raised on the hill behind Honmoku Shrine is used to make six horse-like figures with the head of a horse and the body of a turtle, called *Ouma-sama*. On the day of the ritual, the figures are taken from the shrine and paraded around the Honmoku area, during which disasters and bad luck "transfer" to the *Ouma-sama*. The procession then goes to the Honmoku Fishing Port, where the figures are loaded on two wooden festival boats. The sight of people holding up the figures and running out the boats all at once is a spectacular sight.

The boats are then taken out into the waters off Honmoku, where the *Ouma-sama* are simultaneously released. The two boats then race away from the figures back to the harbor to "escape" the disasters and bad luck that have been transferred to the figures in the hopes the town will remain safe.



Thoughts of a Foreign Resident Life and Culture in Japan

## Gathering Information on Your Own about Life in Japan



When I came to Japan 20 years ago, the Internet was not as developed or convenient as it is now. Back then, as a foreigner I found it was a struggle to get the information I needed.

I didn't know any Japanese when I first arrived, so I got my information through the teachers and other students at my Japanese language school. As my Japanese gradually improved, I was able to gather information from TV, newspapers, magazines and other sources.

The number of foreign residents in Japan continues to increase each year, and information services for foreigners are improving. For example, various websites have started to provide multilingual

information about matters such as oversized garbage collection and disaster prevention. Being able to access information like this in my native language is a great help. For many years, Naka Ward has also provided information for foreign nationals, including government information newsletters, through the Naka International Lounge. Once you understand some Japanese you will be able to make Japanese friends, and it will be easier to gather information. I hope you will find your own way to gather the information you need.

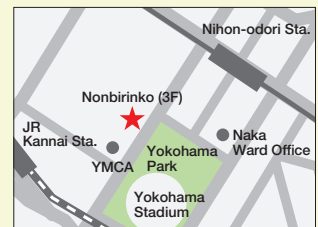
(Naka International Lounge, Chinese language staff)

For Your Use! Facilities That Everyone Can Use



An introduction to Naka Ward public facilities available to any ward resident

## Childcare Support Center "Nonbirinko"



Nonbirinko is a place where parents and children can spend time together. Nonbirinko is free to use, but registration is required. In addition to being a place for parents and children to both play and interact with others, Nonbirinko offers child-raising consultations and holds a variety of events. The staff will warmly welcome you, so please come for a visit. Chinese speakers are also on staff.

Belle Yokohama, 3F, 1-12-1 Sumiyoshi-cho, Naka Ward  
Tel/Fax: 045-663-9715  
Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Closed: Sundays, Mondays and New Year holiday period  
May also be closed on certain other days

We are always looking for locations to distribute *Naka Ward Town News*. If you have many foreign visitors to your shop, clinic, organization, etc. and would like to make this newsletter available to them, please contact us at 045-224-8123 to arrange delivery. The next issue will be published on October 1.