When You Start Tidying Up Your House

〇Take Photographs of the Damage Situation

Take photographs both outside and inside of your house to record the damage caused by the earthquake. Shoot not only the house, but also broken items (a car, refrigerator, etc.) as well as the mark of water on walls to prove the flood depth. Those records can be used as evidence to claim insurance benefits or apply for *‘Risai Shomeisho,’* a Disaster Victim Certificate.

〇*Risai Shomeisho* (Disaster Victim Certificate)

*Risai Shomeisho* is a document to report a city hall that your house was affected by a disaster.

With the *Risai Shomeisho*, you can receive various kinds of support, such as benefits for reconstruction of livelihoods, reduction of payment for public utilities, temporary housing, etc., depending on the degree of damage. Reissuance of a residence card is also available with the *Risai Shomeisho*.

Contact the city hall for the procedure of the issuance of *Risai Shomeisho* as soon as possible since the acceptance of application and the issuance of the certificate may take longer than a month.

〇Before You Start Tidying Up

\*Electricity

Check the circuit breaker to make sure whether there is a short circuit.

If the breaker is turned off, consult an electric power company because there is a danger of electric shock.

\*Gas

If you smell gas inside the house, contact a gas company.

There are two types of gas, ‘*Toshi* Gas (city gas)’ and ‘Propane Gas.’

The supply of *Toshi* Gas is automatically stopped in case of a disaster.

If the supply has been recovered, you can use the gas by pushing the recovery button on the gas meter. Make sure with the gas company if the gas has been recovered.

If you use the Propane Gas and find the bomb has been moved to a different location, contact the gas company because there might be gas leakage.

\*Contact Insurance Company and Others

If your house is covered by a fire insurance or mutual aid (*Kyosai*), contact the insurance company or *Kyosai* to make sure if you can receive the compensation benefits for repair.

If you live in an apartment, contact the house owner.

Take photographs of the damage of the house before repairing and report the insurance company, house owner, the builder of your house, and so on.