

Reducing Typhoon Damages 防颱須知

I. Typhoons

Among the damages and losses, totaling tens of billions of Taiwan dollars, caused by meteorological “natural disasters” in Taiwan each year, those wreaked by typhoons accounted for around 70 percent. Typhoons hit the island mostly in the second half of the year but can also arrive in other seasons. When the Central Weather Bureau (CWB) issues sea and land typhoon warnings, the Ministry of the Interior will immediately establish the “central disaster management and relief center” at the National Fire Agency (NFA). The major task of the center is to pool and coordinate the resources of other departments and agencies at the level of the central government to jointly deal with the natural disaster in the most efficient and effective way.

Other government agencies joining the crisis-management mechanism include the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Council of Agriculture, the Government Information Office, the Department of Health, the Environmental Protection Administration, the CWB, etc.

All local county and city governments will also set up their own “disaster management and relief centers” to execute the management and relief plans as well as to quickly solve the problems arising in their respective areas.

However, the ultimate measures to cope with natural disasters like typhoons and reduce the risks and damages to the minimum still lie in the hands of individual residents.

II. Indoor

- A. Each family should make full preparations in advance items like candles, flashlights, portable radios (to stay tune to weather reports, government announcements, etc. in the event of power outage) and batteries, as well as to store adequate food, water, etc.
- B. Check electrical system and gas pipelines to prevent possible fires.
- C. Do not enter flooded basements for possible electrocution.

III. Outdoor

- A. Affix or tighten potted plants, signs, and billboards so that they will not be blown away by strong winds and injure people.

- B. Check and fasten scaffoldings and fences at construction sites.
- C. Do not risk wading or driving into or through roads and areas already flooded by water to prevent incidents.
- D. Do not park cars and motorbikes in low-lying areas or near river dikes where they can be easily soaked by rising water.

IV. River, coast and mountain areas

- A. Round up fowl and livestock raised near the water into their pens, which themselves should be fastened.
- B. People living by the riverside or coastline should move to higher ground to prevent dangers from surging rivers or sea waters.
- C. Do not angle or fish, watch the sea tides, or engage in water sports for fear of drowning when typhoons arrive.
- D. All fishing boats should return to harbor berths and be fastened while personnel should find shelter on land.
- E. People residing on mountains or slopes should watch out for possible rockslides and landslides. Heed officials' warnings and instructions for emergency evacuation.

V. Better prepared than sorry

Typhoons are one of the natural disasters that can be detected and monitored well in advance. Only thorough preparation can reduce possible injuries and damages. It's always wise to make preparations ahead of time.