Humanity Road – Typhoon Etau - Japan
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Social Media Situation Report #1

Highlights

Today's report is a summary of new information found on social media following catastrophic rainfall and flooding in Japan. Humanity Road activated the disaster desk to identify early indications via social media and to amplify official guidance.

Houses were washed away and people raced to high ground in central Japan on Thursday after a major river burst through a levee overwhelmed by torrential rains. The Kinugawa River's banks collapsed around midday, flooding a residential neighborhood. Nearby areas also sustained severe flooding and mudslides, the government has urged 130,000 people to evacuate the area. (via NPR)

As of September 11, 2015 at 04:20 (JST) the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (@FDMA_Japan) issued preliminary situation report with damage assessments and evacuation status by prefecture (via FDMA)

Twitter handles
@Humanityroad
@Disasteranimals
@jAidDog

Facebook pages
Humanity Road
Animals in Disaster

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Period covered: September 10, 2015
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Situation Overview

About Humanity Road: Founded in 2010 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, Humanity Road is a leader in the field of online disaster response. Through skilled and self-directed work teams, Humanity Road and its network of global volunteers aim to provide the public and disaster responders worldwide with timely and accurate aid information. Providing such information helps individuals survive, sustain, and reunite with loved ones. For more information, please visit www.humanityroad.org.
Background:
Houses were washed away and people raced to high ground in central Japan on Thursday after a major river burst through a levee overwhelmed by torrential rains. The Kinugawa River's banks collapsed around midday, flooding a residential neighborhood. Nearby areas also sustained severe flooding and mudslides, the government has urged 130,000 people to evacuate the area. (via NPR)

Floodwaters "Overwhelmed the drainage pumps at the Fukushima nuclear plant," Japan Times reports, citing a Tokyo Electric Power Co. spokesperson who said the flooding sent "Hundreds of tons of contaminated water" into the ocean. (via NPR)

At least one person has died, a dozen others are feared missing and hundreds of people are still awaiting rescue in the Ibaraki and Tochigi prefectures after the rain triggered landslides and floods in regions north of Tokyo on Thursday. (via Japan Times)

The city of Joso, north of Tokyo, was hit by a wall of water after the Kinugawa River burst its banks. Helicopter rescue teams have been plucking people from rooftops. (via BBC) City officials said that 12 people remained unaccounted for and officials were struggling to confirm information about other people having been swept away. By nightfall Thursday, more than 400 residents had been rescued by helicopter and other means mobilized by police, the fire department, the Self-Defense Forces and the Japan Coast Guard. (via Japan Times)

Akira Motokawa, a city evacuation official, told national broadcaster NHK that rescuers have been unable to keep up with the volume of calls for help. As of 19.00 (JST), authorities had rescued 70 of the 176 people who had requested help. Another 100 people were reported trapped on the second floor of a flooded supermarket, and 80 more in a nursing home. (via NationalPost)

The severe rain disrupted rail transportation in eastern and northeastern areas of Japan. The East Japan Railway cancelled all services between the Fukushima and Shinjo stations on the Yamagata Shinkansen Line through Friday morning. (via Japan Times)

As of 2300 (JST), the National Police Agency reported that around 690 people were still seeking assistance.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

REUNIFICATION SITES
- Google Person Finder
- ICRC Person Finder
- Facebook Safety Check
- iReport CNN

AIRPORT

POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS
- TEPCO @TEPCO English (Tokyo Electric Power Co.)
TEPCO began closing the seaside impermeable wall at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station today following the successful implementation of the subdrain and groundwater drain systems. For the first operation, one of the nine steel pipe sheet-piles were struck by a vibratory hammer to within 1.5m of the planned depth. The wall will play a crucial role in preventing the groundwater containing radioactive materials from reaching the port area and ensure ocean water quality. (via TEPCO Facebook)

- [http://photo.tepco.co.jp/…/da…/2015/201509-e/150910-01e.html](http://photo.tepco.co.jp/…/da…/2015/201509-e/150910-01e.html)
- [http://www.tepco.co.jp/…/20…/images/handouts_150909_01-e.pdf](http://www.tepco.co.jp/…/20…/images/handouts_150909_01-e.pdf)

HOSPITALS


PREFECTURES IMPACTED

IBARAKI PREFECTURE

via NPR: Floodwaters from the burst Kinugawa River (left) flow into a residential area (right) in Joso, Ibaraki Prefecture, on Thursday. The city is northeast of Tokyo. Jiji Press/AFP/Getty Images

- Joso City (Pop 42,342)
  Website: [http://www.city.joso.lg.jp/](http://www.city.joso.lg.jp/)
○ September 10 - Joso was hit by a wall of water after the Kinugawa River burst its banks. Helicopter rescue teams have been plucking people from rooftops. At least eight people are still missing and 100 need rescuing. (via BBC)
○ Aerial Image of flooding (via NPR)
○ Video footage shows helicopters being used to rescue people (via youtube)
○ Video footage of people trapped in buildings by floodwater (via National Post)
○ As of 19.00 (JST) authorities had rescued 70 of 176 people requesting help. (via National Post)
  ■ 100 people are trapped on the second floor of a flooded supermarket
  ■ 80 people are trapped in a nursing home.
  ■ More than 31,000 people in the shelter at schools, community centers and other safer areas.
  ■ Defense troops were delivering food, blankets and water to about 780 people in several communities who were stranded but not seeking rescue.

● Tsukubu City (Pop 214,590)
● Website http://www.tsukubainfo.jp/
● Twitter https://twitter.com/tkb_CityInfo
  ○ Tsukubu Issued evacuation recommendation to next district on September 10th 15:25 (JST)
  ○ List of shelters now open (September 10):
  ○ Toyosato Exchange Center, Toyosato Junior High School, JA Yatabe, Sakura Junior High School, Tsukuba Exchange Center, Educational Counseling Center, Kamigo Elementary School Gymnasium, Yatabe Gymnasium, Tsukuba Institute of Technology High School (City Tsukuba Ibaraki)

TOCHIGI PREFECTURE

● Tochigi City (Pop 144,54)
● Website: http://www.city.tochigi.lg.jp/
● Twitter: https://twitter.com/Tochigi_City_01
  ○ Officials were investigating whether rainfall in advance of Etau's landfall contributed to a slope failure at a mine in Ashikaga on Tuesday afternoon. According to Tokyo television station TBS, a 20 year old worker was buried in the landslide and later died in hospital. (via TBS)
  ○ List of shelters now open (September 10):
  ○ Tochigi Region Longevity Park, Central Elementary School, Tochigi, MINAGAWA Community Center, Fukiage Hall, Terao Community Center ○ Great Plains region Pacific Community ○ Fujioka Fujioka Exhibition Hall, Fujioka Junior High School ○ Tsuga Ogaki Community Center ○ Western Regional ASO Dream Hall and West Health Center ○ Iwafune Rock Areas Boat Community (via Tochigi City Twitter)

FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE

● Website: http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/english/
● In Fukushima a 7 meter high bridge collapsed due to flood waters. (via Western Pacific Weather)
According to national newspaper, Mainichi Shimbun, heavy rainfall Wednesday caused contaminated water from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant site to run off into the Pacific Ocean for several hours early Wednesday. (via Mainichi Newspaper) It was the seventh such incident this year at Fukushima Daiichi, which suffered a catastrophic meltdown after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. (via Weather.com)

Floodwaters "overwhelmed the drainage pumps at the Fukushima nuclear plant," Japan Times reports, citing a Tokyo Electric Power Co. spokesman who said the flooding sent "hundreds of tons of contaminated water" into the ocean. (via NPR)

AKITA PREFECTURE
- East Japan Railway Co. partially halted Akita Shinkansen rail services on September 9 due to strong wind. (via Japan Times)

YAMAGATA PREFECTURE
- JR East said services were suspended on the Yamagata Shinkansen Rail Line between Fukushima and Shinjo stations throughout Thursday. Some local trains in Tochigi also suspended services. (via Japan Times)

MIYAGI PREFECTURE
- #BREAKING: Emergency rainfall warning issued for Miyagi Prefecture, #Japan, incl. Sendai; dangerous #flooding likely (via Weather Channel - Twitter)

CHIBA PREFECTURE
- JMA has warned about rain continuing until Friday in the Fukushima, Saitama and Chiba prefectures, as well as Tokyo which could witness rainfall of up to 200mm (7.9 inches). (via Yahoo News)

SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/MtFujiShizuoka
  - Weather warnings/advisories lifted for prefecture, but roads closed in several parts of the prefecture as of September 9 17.00 (JST).
  - Areas with closures: Hamamatsu (Tenryu Ward), Shimada, Iwata, Shizuoka city (Suruga and Shimizu Wards), Izunokuni (via MtFujiShizuoka Twitter)
  - (via Weather.com) for items below
    - Flash floods and landslides were reported Tuesday in the city of Hamamatsu (via NHK). Sediment from one of the landslides overturned a car, slightly injuring a man in his 40’s. In addition, two people were slightly injured after falling in flooded roadways in the city.
    - At least 49 locations in Hamamatsu reported road flooding, along with 35 in the neighboring city of Iwata.
    - NHK also said a section of cliff 10m (33 feet) high and 10m wide crumbled behind houses in a Hamamatsu neighborhood. No injuries were reported. Hamamatsu reported 388.5mm (15.30 inches) of rainfall in the 72-hour period ending at 09:20 (JST) Wednesday, according to JMA data.
    - NHK said there were at least 11 landslides in Shizuoka Prefecture alone. (via NHK)
○ The top rainfall total near Etau's landfall zone was 424.5mm (16.71 inches) on Mount Amagi in Shizuoka Prefecture in the 72-hour period ending at 16:20 (JST) Wednesday.
○ Two elderly men suffered minor injuries after falling in strong winds as Etau made landfall west of the prefecture.

**KANAGAWA PREFECTURE**

- **Kawasaki** (Pop 1,437,266)
  - September 10 - More than 600,000 people in the city of Kawasaki were advised to evacuate during the height of the heavy rainfall, according to government reports. ([via Weather.com](https://www.weather.com))

- **Yokohama** (Pop 3,697,894)
  - Yokohama recorded a five-day total rainfall of 306.5mm (12.07 inches). ([via Weather.com](https://www.weather.com))
  - The city of Sendai issued an evacuation advisory to 412,000 people, after the Nanakitagawa River flooded in Izumi Ward. ([via Japan Times](https://www.japan-times.com))

**MAPS**


- Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI)

**PHOTOS / VIDEOS**
A building of an open-air spa falls into the rapid stream of the Kinugawa River in Japan’s Tochigi prefecture; (via BBC) (Credit: AP Images)

The heavy rain pummelled Japan for a second straight day, overflowing rivers and causing landslides: http://bbc.in/1gb7M5R (Credit: AP Images)

Dueling Storms