

Our thoughts go out to the people of Japan who were affected by the earthquake(s) and tsunami. We hope that your family and friends in Japan are safe and well.

We are sharing four kinds of information with you as we prepare for JASA, Sister Cities, state-coordinated relief response:

(1) HOW YOU CAN HELP:

The American Red Cross has already set up an online donation site to provide assistance to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami at

http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main <<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/54349506/0/>>. President Obama has promised all possible assistance to the people of Japan. US military assets are moving to the region to provide aid.

(2) CONTACTING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Please do not try to use the regular phone lines to find out if your family and friends are safe.

Use Twitter, Skype, Mixi, etc. and save the phone lines for someone who really needs it in the Tohoku area.

Google has created the site, "Google Person

Finder" <<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/54349507/0/>>.

Type in the name of person you are looking for to find out if he/she is safe.

If the person you are looking for has a cell phone in Japan, and you know which company his/her cell phone is, you can check each company's website below and type in the phone number to see if he/she has left a message. The available areas are Aomori, Miyagi, Yamagata and Fukushima prefectures.

For Docomo users:

<http://dengon.docomo.ne.jp/top.cgi> <<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/54349508/0/>>

For KDDI (Ezweb) users:

<http://dengon.ezweb.ne.jp/> <<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/54349509/0/>>

For Softbank users:

<http://dengon.softbank.ne.jp/> <<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/54349510/0/>>

For Wilcom users:

<http://dengon.willcom-inc.com/dengon/Top.do>

<<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/54349511/0/>>

For Emobile users:

<http://dengon.emnet.ne.jp/> <<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/54349512/0/>>

(3) FOR INFORMATION ON US CITIZENS IN JAPAN:

The US Embassy and Consulates in Japan are working to obtain information on the status of U.S. citizens and to provide assistance as necessary.

* If you have concerns about a specific U.S. citizen in Japan, please send the State Department an email at JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov <<mailto:JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov>>.

* If you have concerns about a specific U.S. citizen in the Tsunami zone outside of Japan, please send the State Department an email at PacificTsunamiUSC@state.gov <<mailto:PacificTsunamiUSC@state.gov>>.

* Although telephone lines are disrupted, you may want to try contacting your loved one by email, text (SMS) message, or other social media.

* Tokyo airports (Narita and Haneda) are currently closed and possibly damaged. Trains and subways are down in the Tokyo metropolitan region, and train service may be sporadic throughout the rest of the country.

* Aftershocks can be expected and may be severe. U.S. citizens should take basic earthquake safety precautions.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INQUIRIES

- * U.S. Forces Japan reports that all personnel have been accounted for, and there are no reports of injuries.
- * The Department of Defense instructs that family members of Department of Defense personnel should call 1-800-342-9647 to inquire about their loved ones or contact the individual unit command directly for more specific information.

(4) FOR INFORMATION ON JAPANESE AND OTHER CITIZENS:

If you are calling regarding a Japanese citizen, please contact the Japanese Embassy (Washington - 202-238-6700) or local Japanese Consulate.

If you are calling regarding a citizen of a third country, please contact that country's Embassy or Consulate. Contact information for foreign Embassies and Consulates in the United States is available in the Country Specific Information links at www.travel.state.gov <<http://tracking.etapestry.com/t/15854852/324013516/20669355/0/>>.

12:42 p.m., Friday, March 11th,

I was on the way from DC to Narita when the earthquake hit and the plane could not land. I am spending the night at Kansai Airport.

They are asking people not to try to use the regular phone lines to find out if your family and friends are safe. Use twitter, skype, mixi, etc. and save the phone lines for someone who really needs it in Tohoku area.

Google has created the site, "Google Person Finder".

<http://japan.person-finder.appspot.com/?lang=en>

It currently has the record of 7200 people and you can type in the name of person you are looking for and find out if he/she is safe.

You can watch the Japanese News ontime from the site below.

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/foxtokimekitonight>

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Another way to find out:

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