

## Establishment of the Law Concerning Promotion of Countermeasures against Tsunamis

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred in March 2011, Japan stipulated **the Law Concerning Promotion of Countermeasures against Tsunamis** in June 2011 as a basic law to promote comprehensive and effective implementation of tsunami countermeasures.

The Law sets forth basic policies, enhances tsunami monitoring systems, promotes tsunami researches, predicts the damage from tsunamis, and improves partnerships for cooperation, while also designating **November 5th as the Tsunami Preparedness Day**.

## Tsunami Preparedness Day (November 5<sup>th</sup>)

**On November 5th, the Tsunami Preparedness Day**, national and local authorities hold appropriate events such as disaster drills and symposiums across the country, in order to increase public understanding on and interest in the countermeasures against tsunamis.

## Origin of the Tsunami Preparedness Day

The Tsunami Preparedness Day is derived from "the Fire of Inamura (Rice Sheaves)", which is an episode about a village chief who saved villagers from a big tsunami. He set fire to stacks of rice sheaves as landmarks to guide villagers to a safe route to a hill in the dark, when a tsunami hit Wakayama following the Ansei-Nankai Earthquake(M8.4) that occurred on November 5th, 1854.

\*Lafcadio Hearn wrote "A Living God" based on the episode of "the Fire of Inamura".

## July - October

### Cabinet Office

Call for earthquake & tsunami preparedness drills (from May)

Addressed to:

Prefectures, cities, towns, municipalities, and private sector

### Central Disaster Management Council

Request for implementation on events related to the Tsunami Preparedness Day

Addressed to:

Designated government organizations, designated public corporations, and prefectural disaster management councils

### Earthquake & Tsunami Preparedness Drills

#### Kick-off Event

Date: Wednesday, 30 July

Venue: City of Wakayama

Call to: Prefectures, cities, towns, municipalities, private sector and others

## November

\*November 5th is the Tsunami Preparedness Day designated by the Law Concerning Promotion of Countermeasures against Tsunamis

### Earthquake & Tsunami Preparedness Drills

#### Disaster Drill for Major Disaster Headquarters (November 5)

Drills organized by prefectures

Drills organized by private sector

#### Earthquake & Tsunami Preparedness Drills by Cabinet Office

8 locations nationwide

Hokkaido

Miyagi

Chiba

Aichi

Wakayama

Yamaguchi

Kochi

Miyazaki

Drills by other ministries & agencies

Drills by cities, towns, municipalities

Drills by communities

PR

Press Release  
(Scheduled for September)

### “Tsunami Preparedness Day” Symposium

Date: 5 November 2014

Venues: City of Sendai

Addressed to: All the people in Japan

Event details: A symposium for improving public awareness on countermeasures against tsunamis, thereby disseminating the Day to the public through media

- Circulate and display posters for Tsunami Preparedness Day, thereby disseminating the Tsunami Preparedness Day (July through November)