

# Emergency Warning System Starting Shortly



Sediment Disaster caused by the Typhoon Talas in 2011  
(Kawakami Village, Yoshino Country, Nara Prefecture)

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) will issue Emergency Warnings to alert people to the significant likelihood of catastrophes in association with natural phenomena of extraordinary magnitude.

# Emergency Warnings will be issued if a phenomenon is expected to be of a scale that will far exceed the warning criteria.

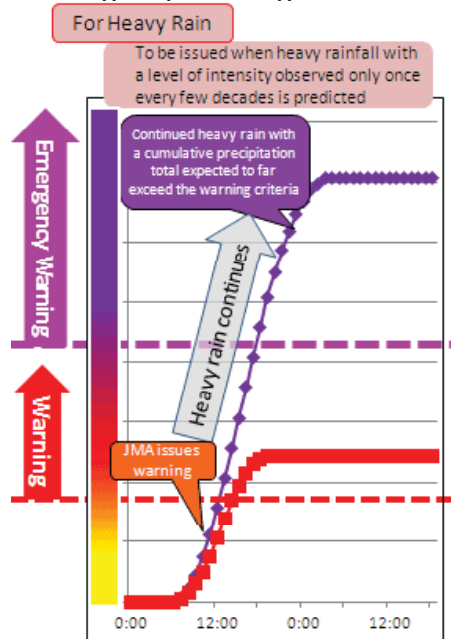
Emergency Warnings are intended for extraordinary phenomena such as the major tsunami caused by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the 1959 storm surge in Ise Bay caused by Typhoon Vera (a.k.a. Ise-wan Typhoon) and the 2011 heavy rain caused by Typhoon Talas. They are issued to alert people to the significant likelihood of catastrophes in association with natural phenomena of extraordinary magnitude.

There was previously no effective means of informing residents of a significantly high risk of imminent fatal disaster in association with phenomena of a scale expected to far exceed the warning criteria.



Establishment of a new Emergency Warning system to highlight such risk

## Emergency Warning Overview



Examples of catastrophic heavy rains to which the new Emergency Warnings would apply



Typhoon Talas (2011)



Kyushu-Hokubu heavy rainfall (July 2012)

Note: The criteria for issuance of Emergency Warnings will be determined in response to the views of local governments. As soon as they are determined, JMA will announce them via its website and other media.

# Take all steps to protect yourself if an Emergency Warning is issued.

- An extraordinary phenomenon of a magnitude never experienced by local residents is likely to occur. Take immediate action to protect life.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and relevant information such as municipal evacuation advisories and orders, and head immediately to a tall building designated as an evacuation center. If it is dangerous to go outside, evacuate to a safer place within the building you are in.
- The possibility of a catastrophe is high even if the area has not experienced a disaster for several decades. Do not let your guard down.

In regard to earthquakes, tsunami and volcanic eruptions, JMA will maintain the current system of warning nomenclature but will issue messages in the new classification of Emergency Warnings for high-risk conditions.

- For tsunami, existing Major Tsunami Warnings will be issued in the classification of Emergency Warnings. If such a warning is issued, immediately evacuate from coastal or river areas to a safer place such as high ground or a tall building designated as an evacuation center.
- For volcanic eruptions, existing Volcanic Warnings (Level 4 and 5) will be issued in the classification of Emergency Warnings. If such a warning is issued, evacuate or prepare to evacuate from alert areas.
- For earthquakes, existing Earthquake Early Warnings incorporating prediction of tremors measuring 6-lower or more on JMA's seismic intensity scale will be issued in the classification of Emergency Warnings. Action to be taken is the same as that for Earthquake Early Warnings incorporating prediction of tremors measuring up to 5-upper on JMA's seismic intensity scale.

Examples of tsunami and volcanic eruptions to which the new Emergency Warnings would apply



Major tsunami caused by 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake



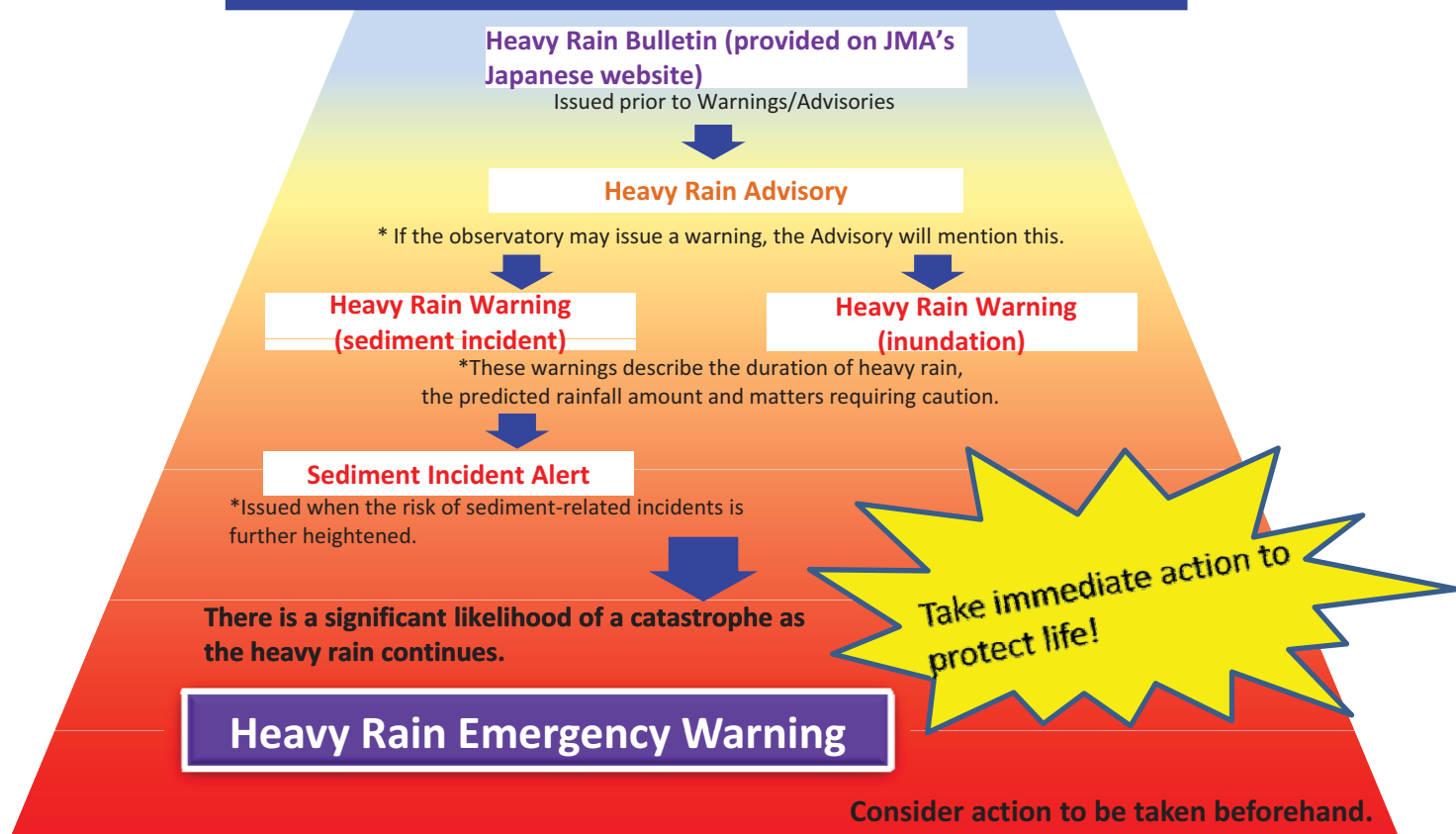
Miyake Island volcanic eruption (2000)

Never let your guard down even if no Emergency Warning is currently in effect.

- If a catastrophe is likely, JMA will issue Warnings as before. It is advisable to take precautionary measures such as paying attention to the latest bulletins.
- It is important to take early action with reference to relevant bulletins, Advisories and Warnings, which are updated in response to the latest phenomenon observations or predictions.

# Emergency Warning issuance (for heavy rain)

## Messages issued by meteorological observatories



Emergency Warnings will be disseminated through administrative organs and wide variety of media. Residents should look out for relevant messages.

\* The English-language section of JMA's website provides information on whether Emergency Warnings, Warnings or Advisories are in effect in particular areas. However, the information described above is shown only in the Japanese-language section.

