# 5 Earthquake Early Warning

#### 1) What is an Earthquake Early Warning?

An Earthquake Early Warning is the information announcing that strong tremors caused by an earthquake are about to arrive very soon. The Japan Meteorological Agency announces this warning via TV and radio to areas where strong tremors may hit.

An Earthquake Early Warning is the information announced after the tremors near the epicenter are detected. It is expected to take several seconds to up to a minute between the announcement of an Earthquake Early Warning and the occurrence of strong tremors. Areas close to the epicenter may not be able to receive the announcement in time before tremors hit.

#### When a major earthquake occurs, the following information is broadcasted through wireless loudspeaker:

Earthquake Early Warning		A major earthquake is about to occur.  A major earthquake is about to occur.	おおじしんです。 おおじしんです。
Earthquake and Tsunami Information	Seismic intensity of 4 or more	An earthquake with a seismic intensity of $\Box\Box$ has occurred. Please turn off the gas and extinguish all fire sources. Please turn on the TV or radio and stay calm.	しんど○○のじしんがはっせいしました。 ひのしまつをしてください。てれび・らじお をつけ、おちついてこうどうしてください。
	Large Tsunami Warning	A Large Tsunami Warning has been issued. For those near the ocean, please evacuate to high ground.	おおつなみけいほうがはっぴょうされました。かいがんふきんのかたはたかだいにひ なんしてください。
	Tsunami Warning	A Tsunami Warning has been issued. For those near the ocean, please evacuate to high ground.	つなみけいほうがはっぴょうされました。 かいがんふきんのかたはたかだいにひなん してください。
	Tsunami Advisory	A Tsunami Advisory has been issued. For those near the ocean, please be careful.	つなみちゅういほうがはっぴょうされました。かいがんふきんのかたはちゅういして ください。
	The Tokai Earthquake Warning Declaration	A Tokai Earthquake Warning Declaration has just been issued. Please pay attention to the information on TV or radio.	ただいま、とうかいじしんけいかいせんげんがはっぴょうされました。 てれび・らじおのじょうほうにちゅういしてください。
	The Tokai Earthquake Advisory Information	A Tokai Earthquake Advisory Information has just been issued. Please pay attention to the information on TV or radio.	ただいま、とうかいじしんちゅういじょうほうがはっぴょうされました。 てれび・らじおのじょうほうにちゅういしてください。

<sup>\*</sup> Emergency related information other than the above is also broadcasted.

In the case of a false alarm, an announcement that the previous alarm was an error is broadcasted via wireless loudspeaker.

<sup>\*</sup> This is an automatic broadcasting system: the information is broadcasted at all hours.

<sup>\*</sup> An Earthquake Early Warning may not be issued in time in areas close to the epicenter, or in the event of an earthquake occurring directly above its epicenter.

<sup>\*\*</sup> In this system the information is sent out automatically from national computers: a false alarm may possibly be made.

#### 2) What If an Earthquake Early Warning is Announced?

It is important to remain calm and protect yourself first. Please determine in advance what to do when an Earthquake Early Warning is issued, referring to the "Dos & Don'ts" below.

- At Home · Protect your head and take shelter under sturdy desks, etc.
  - · Don't rush outside.
  - Don't try to put out out-of-control fires yourself.





#### In Public Buildings with **Many People**

- Follow the attendant's instructions.
- · Stay calm.
- · Don't rush to the exit.



## An Earthquake Early Warning: "Dos & Don'ts"

#### When Driving

- Don't slow down suddenly.
- Turn on your hazard lights to alert other drivers.
- Don't slam on the brakes. Slow down smoothly.
- · If you feel strong tremors, pull over safely to the left and stop.

### Wherever you are, remain calm and secure your personal safety.

After seeing or hearing an Earthquake Early Warning, you have only a matter of seconds before strong tremors arrive.

This means you need to act quickly to protect yourself.

#### **Outdoors (in town)**



- · Look out for collapsing concrete-block walls.
- · Look out for falling signs and broken glass.
- Evacuate to the nearest sturdy building.



#### On Buses or Trains

· Hold on tight to a strap or handrail.



#### In Elevators

· Stop the elevator at the nearest floor and get off immediately.



#### **Near Mountains or** Cliffs

· Look out for falling rocks and landslides



(From the Japan Meteorological Agency)