



NGO JEN

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Call for Volunteers: Sludge Removal “Mud Busters”

Tohoku Earthquake

At 14:46, March 11th 2011, a devastating earthquake of M9.0, the largest in the recorded history of Japan, occurred off the coast of Miyagi prefecture. Over 20,000 people have been reported either dead or missing due to the earthquake (on the Japanese seismic scale, registering 7 in Miyagi prefecture and 6 plus in Fukushima prefecture), tsunami of 10m high and fire. With over 20,000 houses destroyed, more than 300,000 people were forced to evacuate and are enduring hardship at the evacuation centers. JEN dispatched its first team to Miyagi prefecture on March 13th, and conducted damage and needs assessment and assessment of transportation and procurement routes. Along with these assessments, JEN distributed emergency supplies (clothing, hygiene kits, food, fuel, etc.) to evacuation centers and nursing homes in Sendai City and to individual homes in Ishinomaki City. Hot meals were also prepared and distributed at evacuation centers.

As roads and basic infrastructures are rebuilt, more and more people are returning to their homes from the evacuation centers. On the other hand, people from communities suffering total destruction by the tsunami may have to remain at the evacuation centers in the longer term. Moreover, those whose homes were partially damaged require support to repair and clean their houses before they can return.

JEN “Mud Busters”

Sludge, brought by the tsunami, is now emitting disturbing odor around communities. It has been more than three weeks since the earthquake, and the sludge is drying up and hardening. Gradually this sludge will turn into dust. The dust will be blown up into the air which can have perverse effects to our health. The tsunami brought heavy sludge inside houses. Tatami mats and furnitures have absorbed water (one tatami can weigh up to 100kg), thus women and elders cannot even clean up their houses. Most of the people staying at their homes live on the second floor because the ground floor is covered with mud and sludge. There are also evacuees who could return home once mud and sludge is cleared. JEN is now procuring equipments and preparing to receive volunteers while coordinating with other organizations. We are now calling for volunteers to help us remove mud and sludge from houses.

Terms and conditions:

- Transportation to Ishinomaki must be organized by the volunteers.
- Volunteers to participate minimum two days (consecutive).
- Volunteers will lodge in tents, sleeping with sleeping bags.
- Volunteers need to bring a tent, a sleeping bag, food and drinks for their consumption, work clothes (a helmet, rubber boots, goggles, rubber gloves, long sleeve T-shirt and trousers).

Lodging

- Tents will be set up within Ishinomaki Senshu University, Ishinomaki City.
- Volunteers will use sleeping bags.
- There are temporary toilets. Shower will not be available.
- Ishinomaki Senshu University

Address: 1 Minamizakai Shinmito, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture 986-8580

Meals

- Volunteers need to bring their own food for the duration of their stay.
- Volunteers need to bring water and drinks for the duration of their stay. Sludge removal requires strength. Please bring enough water to prevent dehydration.

Volunteer insurance

Volunteer insurance is mandatory. Application process can be facilitated by JEN. Please fill-in the "application form", and send it to JEN by fax +81-3-5225-9352 or email volunteer@jen-npo.org.

Program

1. First group

Date/ Time: Tuesday, April 12th at 17:00

Meeting Place: At the entrance of Building No. 5, Ishinomaki Senshu University
1 Minamizakai Shinmito, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture
2km from Miyako Bus Oohashi Temporary Bus Stop (about 30-minute walk)

Time table: April 12th from 17:00 Induction
April 13th from 8:00 Sludge removal

2. Second group

Date/ Time: Saturday, April 16th at 9:30

Meeting Place: At the entrance of Building No. 5, Ishinomaki Senshu University
1 Minamizakai Shinmito, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture
2km from Miyako Bus Oohashi Temporary Bus Stop (about 30 minute walk)

Time table: April 16th from 9:30 Induction
April 16th from 10:00 Sludge removal

※ Program may change due to local situation.

※ After work, volunteers may return home with transportation organized by themselves. Those who wish to stay longer, please contact JEN office.

Transportation

1. Transportation to Sendai: Highway bus is recommended

From Tokyo

- Sendai – Shinjuku: Keio Tetsudou Bus

<https://www.highwaybus.com/rs-web01-prd-rel/gp/info/lineDetail?lineGroupNo=6&lineId=455>

- Sendai - Tokyo: JR Bus Kantou

http://www.jrbuskanto.co.jp/topics/post_144.html

2. Sendai – Ishinomaki: Miyako Bus (Tel.+81-22-771-5310/ Open weekdays 9:00-17:30)

<http://www.miyakou.co.jp/cms/news/desc/all/146/#target>

As of April 5th, a temporary bus is operating between Sendai Ekimae (Aoba Dori Sakuranomae Bus Stop No. 33) and Oohashi Temporary Bus Stop (1-1 Oohashi, Ishinomaki City, next to Ishinomaki Fire Station).

※ There may be changes to bus stops and time table. Please check with Miyako Bus Office or their website before departure.

What to bring

	Items to bring	Note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleeping Bag	Cold weather is expected at night. Please bring warm sleeping bags.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work clothes (long sleeve T-shirt and trousers)	Clothes can get muddy. No laundry service available on site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warm clothes (fleece, sweater)	Dress appropriately for cold weather, especially at night.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rubber boots	Required for sludge removal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drinking water	Drinking water may not be supplied on site. Please bring drinking water for the duration of your stay.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food	Food is not available locally. Please bring food for your consumption.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mask / Anti-dust masks	Required for sludge removal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Helmet	It is recommended for sludge removal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hat	It can protect you from cold weather.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goggles	Especially for those wearing contact lenses, it's a must.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change of clothes, change of underwear	No laundry service or facility is available. Please bring sufficient amount.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Towels (small and big)	Towels are useful to protect your neck during sludge removal. May get muddy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toiletries	Soap, tooth brush, etc
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thick rubber gloves	Required for sludge removal. Cotton gloves are good to wear underneath the rubber gloves.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tent	For lodging

<input type="checkbox"/>	Heat-retention silver sheets	It will keep you warm at night when used underneath sleeping bags.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raincoat	Raincoat and nylon trousers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicine	Ensure to bring any medication you need
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photocopy of health insurance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	This booklet	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flash light	Necessary for moving around at night.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Umeboshi (salted plums)	Recommended to obtain supplemental salt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name plate	For identification
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water bottle	Recommended to keep water for washing your eyes and hands.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Back pack/ small bag	Needed to keep valuables while at work.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toilet Paper	For your consumption.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wet Tissue	For hygienic purposes.

※ Cell phone reception is not good.

JEN's number in Tokyo (+81-3-5225-9352) can be used for emergency contact for your family and employer.

Contact for Volunteers

JEN Headquarters Office in Tokyo +81-3-5225-9352

JEN staff in Miyagi +81-80-3303-6719

General Inquiries

NGO JEN

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