

Information Transmission and Actions in Case of Ballistic Missile Launch

Cabinet Secretariat

1. J-ALERT

If North Korea launches a ballistic missile towards Japan, the time it takes for it to reach Japan would be extremely short. Hypothetically speaking, if it is expected that a missile will pass through Japan, the Japanese government will use the National Early Warning System (J-ALERT) at any time to transmit emergency messages.

In case J-ALERT is used, not only will the warning be broadcasted over the loudspeakers outdoors, but also Area Mails (for targeted areas) and emergency messages will be sent to mobile phones.

2. Information Transmitted through J-ALERT

In case J-ALERT is used, a siren and a warning message will be broadcasted over the loudspeakers outdoors in each municipality. The message is broadcasted only in Japanese. You can hear the siren sound at the link below:

<http://www.kokuminhogo.go.jp/img/siren.mp3>

* The abovementioned siren sound is used only for information transmission relating to civil protection. The sounds used for emergency warnings in case of tsunami and other crises are different.

* Reproduction, recording, or inappropriate use of these sounds is PROHIBITED.

Furthermore, an Area Mail (for targeted areas) and emergency messages informing of a missile launch will be sent to every mobile phone, triggering a ringtone.

Note that Android phones covered by NTT DOCOMO may be programmed to receive J-ALERT information in English, Chinese (simplified Chinese) and Korean.

3. What To Do

If you hear the siren or emergency message ringtone mentioned above or receive a message from J-ALERT, stay calm and immediately follow the instructions below:

- When outdoors: Take shelter in a building or underground nearby.
 - Sturdier buildings are better, but if there are none around, any other building is fine.
- When there are no buildings around: hide under anything that can provide shelter or lie flat on the ground covering your head.
- When indoors: Move away from windows or to a room without windows.

If a missile has landed nearby, follow the instructions below:

- When outdoors: cover your mouth and nose with a handkerchief, immediately move away from the impact zone, and take shelter in a well-sealed building or move upwind.
- When indoors: turn off ventilation systems, close windows, and seal up any openings to make the space as airtight as possible.

For more information, see the pamphlet and Q&A on what to do in case of a ballistic missile launch (Available at the Civil Protection Portal Site in English).

* Civil Protection Portal Site: http://www.kokuminhogo.go.jp/en/pc-index_e.html