

Can we foresee occurrence of a larger earthquake?

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When a swarm-like activity is started, we are especially concerned about the possibility of occurrence of a large earthquake in the future. Utsu (1978) and Yamashina (1981) proposed methods to discriminate foreshock activity by paying attention to the magnitude difference between larger shocks and the order of their occurrence. In the daily work of watching on-going seismic activity at JMA, we have got an impression that we should be careful when larger earthquakes begin to occur in a swarm activity. In this paper we present various examples about development of swarm activity and try to evaluate the above-mentioned experimental impression statistically.