

## Seismicity change around the inferred locked zone in the Tokai area

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Recently, changes of seismicity pattern have appeared around the inferred locked zone in the Tokai area. One is a quiescence of the microearthquake activity which has been recognized since August in 1999. Another is a focal mechanism change such that the rate of normal faulting type decreased significantly in 1999. Although we have no definite idea to explain these phenomena, it is necessary to pay attention to its progress concerning a forthcoming Tokai earthquake.