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How to evacuate from huge tsunami. Preliminary report based on eyewitnesses in Rikuzen-Takata

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The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake caused huge damage in eastern part of Japan. More than 99% of death and missing persons are concentrated in Fukushima Iwate and Miyagi. Currently, we have less information about Earthquake damage, preparation against earthquake and tsunami and evacuation process during the tsunami. In this study, we clarified the actual situation of the human individual evacuation process by interviews.

In the survey, we used a technique that hearing the event by event after the earthquake. We carried out survey around Rikuzen-takata, Iwate from April 21th to 23th, 2011.

All interviewee have experienced strong shake. But their and neighborhood houses are not damaged by the quake to interfere for their evacuation actions. Almost respondents have a perception of the evacuation points, and they went to that point by themselves. But the evacuation places did not have adequate elevation for the tsunami. Many refugees have lost their lives. The most of survived persons have moved to higher place after watching the killer tsunami or hearing radio broadcast about tsunami over seaside bank.

Keywords: Tsunami, The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake, evacuation, evacuation point, Hazard map, Damage estimation of tsunami