

Documenting the Japan 3/11 Disaster

kizuna - bonds

NHK WORLD will broadcast a series of special programs titled 'Documenting the Japan 3/11 Disaster' from December 23rd to 31st. Since March 11, the day of the earthquake and tsunami, NHK has been producing many programs on the disaster and its continuing after effects. NHK WORLD will provide six documentaries to investigate the cause of the disaster, explore measures to survive one in the future, and portray the efforts and struggles of people trying to reconstruct their lives. Episodes will include a one-minute introduction at the beginning to further engage overseas viewers.

December

GMT

23 Fri. 01:10 Repeat/ 05:10, 09:10, 13:10, 18:10, 22:10

Surviving the Tsunami 50min.



The huge tsunami triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake reached heights of 39 meters in some areas and struck villages and towns 6 kilometers inland. Vast amounts of footage shot by NHK and local people captured the destructive force of this catastrophic wave. Using the footage shot on March 11 and the analysis of experts, this program sheds light on the menace of a giant tsunami. Survivors who appeared in the footage on that day were also found. They talk about what they thought and did from the time the earthquake struck until the tsunami swept through their towns. This program offers lessons on what needs to be done to protect people from a devastating tsunami.

24 Sat. 01:10 Repeat/ 05:10, 09:10, 13:10, 18:10, 22:10

Mega Tsunami - Hidden Perils 50min.



On the night of 3/11, Kesenuma city was turned into a sea of fire. What sort of danger did the disaster-stricken areas face from tsunami fires? How did embankments come to be destroyed? The countermeasures and strategies that we previously believed to be perfect have been questioned. This program provides an overall picture of the giant tsunami using real-time images, witness reports and expert analysis. By focusing on what those involved were thinking and did during the disaster, the program investigates what is needed for us to protect our lives from future tsunamis.

25 Sun. 01:10 Repeat/ 05:10, 09:10, 13:10, 18:10, 22:10

The Line Between Life and Death 50min.



A survey was carried out on what happened that day to the 4,500 residents of Yuriage town, where the tsunami claimed 800 lives. What emerged from the results was the "psychological factor," which had not previously been verified or included in disaster prevention measures. The program examines the "mental trap" in which people may be caught during disasters and proposes new disaster prevention measures incorporating both soft and hard infrastructures.

29Thu.

02:10 Repeat/ 05:10, 09:10, 13:10, 18:10, 22:10

Radiation - Fighting the Invisible Enemy 50min.



With a population of around 6,000, the village of Iitate was in harmony with nature. The villagers were engaged mainly in the farming and livestock industries. However, the accidents at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant changed everything. The soil has been contaminated by radiation, and residents themselves have also been exposed. This program provides a close look at Iitate village over the four months following the disaster, recording the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the villagers, who have been forced to fight the "invisible enemy" of radiation.

30 Fri.

02:10 Repeat/ 05:10, 09:10, 13:10, 18:10, 22:10

Doctors facing the Tsunami 50min.



Ishinomaki City was devastated by the monstrous tsunami. Almost all medical services there ground to a halt, except for Ishinomaki Red Cross Hospital. As the only remaining healthcare facility, it has continued operating to save the lives of 200,000 residents. However, the doctors were forced to cope with one unimaginable situation after another. Following two doctors from the hospital and shooting over 200 hours of their activities, this program is an historic record of "disaster medical care" over a three-month period starting in the days immediately after the disaster.

31 Sat.

02:10 Repeat/ 05:10, 09:10, 13:10, 18:10, 22:10

Can You See Our Lights? - First Festival after the Tsunami 49min.



Japanese summer festivals serve as a time to hold memorial services for the souls of the departed. Although some of the many places devastated by the disaster were unable to hold their colorful and passionate centuries-old festivals, the people of Rikuzen-Takata, Soma, Minami-Soma and some other cities decided to go ahead as usual. The program shows festival committee members busily repairing damaged floats and drums and encouraging the participation of dispersed former residents. What are the thoughts of the people holding these summer festivals? And what do they hope to express in them?

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