

Welcome to Sakahogi Town!

- Living Comfortably in Sakahogi Town -



Sakahogi Town Lifestyle Guidebook

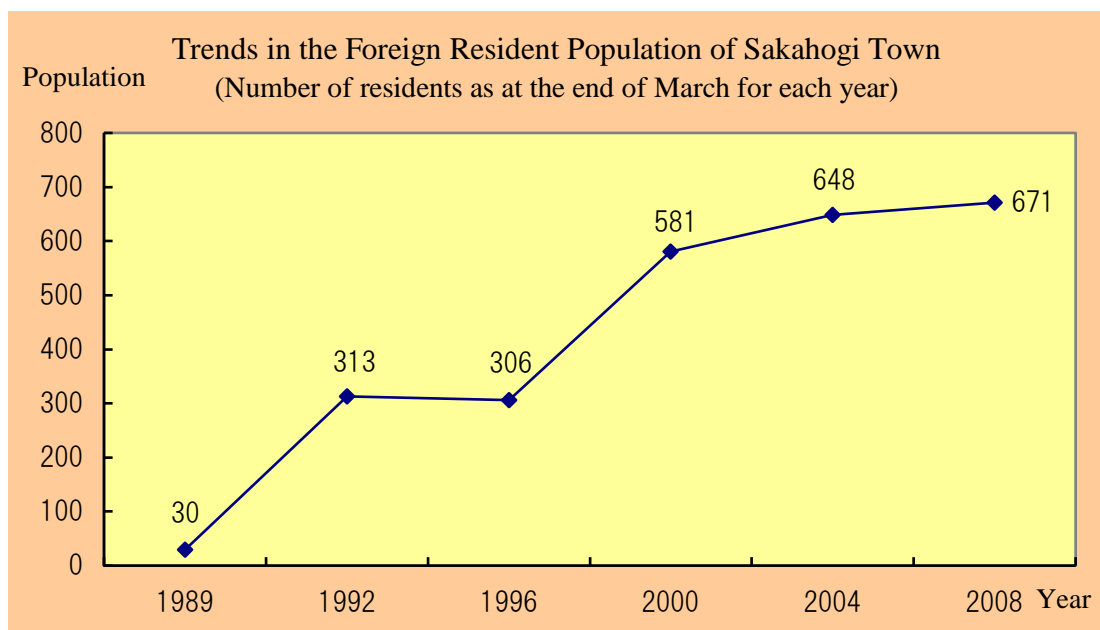
Introduction

Sakahogi Town is located in southern Gifu Prefecture. In 1897, the six villages of Sakagura, Ohari, Kuroiwa, Fukagaya, Katsuyama, and Torikumi merged to become Sakahogi Village, and in 1968, Sakahogi was reorganized as a town.

Blessed with a warm climate and a good natural environment, Sakahogi Town has well-organized road and railway systems, as well as ample employment opportunities, making the town an easy place to live. Perhaps for this reason, over the past several years many foreign nationals have come to live here. As of October 1, 2008, the population of Sakahogi Town was 8,515, of which 749 were foreign nationals (approximately 9% of the total population), and this number is increasing annually.

Coming to a country with different values and customs from your native country, you may be confused or bewildered by many things. However, Japan has its own norms and customs, and following only the values and customs of your native country while living here could cause problems for you and those around you. Learning and adopting rules and manners appropriate for living in Japan will help you avoid such problems and enable you to live comfortably in this country.

The Sakahogi Town Lifestyle Guidebook is a simple compilation of information about government services and systems that you need to know and understand, as well as procedures you may need to follow as a resident of Sakahogi Town. We hope that this guidebook is useful to you in your daily life and that as a citizen of Sakahogi Town you enjoy a bright, pleasant lifestyle here.



You Too Are a Citizen

Local Community Rules

Once you have moved in, become acquainted with your neighbors as soon as possible. Saying simple greetings, such as *ohayo-gozaimasu* (good morning) and *konnichiwa* (hello) when you meet people in the street can help foster good neighborly relations. However, not abiding by social rules can cause inconvenience to others and lead to criticism and bad relations, so care is necessary.

- **At night, do not be noisy either in your home or outside**

Japanese homes tend to be small, and it is easy to hear noise from outside. Making a lot of noise late at night or in the early morning can therefore be very annoying and inconvenient for your neighbors. It is necessary to be careful not to inconvenience others with loud noise during times of the day that are usually quiet in your neighborhood.

- **Abide by the rules for putting out garbage**

In Japan, garbage is separated before being disposed of in consideration of the global environment. Accordingly, garbage must be put out for collection in the manner and at the times specified. Check with your neighbors for the rules for your neighborhood.

- **Local Residents' Associations**

In local communities in Japan, there are organizations known as *Jichikai* or *Chonaikai* (local residents' associations, or neighborhood associations). These local residents' associations are forums for the residents of a community to meet and talk over various issues, as well as cooperate in community activities. Rules differ from association to association, but local residents' associations generally hold various sporting and cultural events, neighbor clean-up days, and other activities aimed at making the neighborhood a good place to live. As a member of your community, please join in these activities and deepen the exchanges with your Japanese neighbors.

For information on joining your local residents' association, please contact the Sakahogi Town Hall General Affairs Division (Tel: 0574-26-7111).

Traffic Rules

Please be careful to drive safely and obey Japan's traffic laws.

- ◆ Do NOT drink and drive!
- ◆ ALWAYS wear a seatbelt!
- ◆ Speeding causes accidents. NEVER exceed the speed limit!
- ◆ Do NOT use your mobile telephone while driving!
- ◆ Park ONLY in designated parking spaces!
- ◆ Be sure to take out compulsory automobile liability insurance!
(Taking out voluntary insurance as well is even more effective.)
- ◆ Make sure that your vehicle undergoes regular automobile safety inspections!
Vehicles cannot be modified unnecessarily!

Immigration/Emigration and Foreign Resident Registration

Foreign Resident Registration

If you are staying in Japan for 90 days or more, you need to register as a foreign resident at the municipal office of the city/town/village where you live. You must notify the municipal office of any changes to your nationality, residential address, occupation, status of residence, name, or place of employment, as well as births and deaths, within the specified time period.

- Procedures and Necessary Documents

When applying to register as a foreign resident, you need to present your passport and two photographs (4.5 cm high x 3.5 cm wide; taken within six months of the application, face-on view, no hat, no disguise). Applicants aged under 16 years need not submit photographs.

You will be issued a *gaikokujin-torokushomeisho* (Certificate of Alien Registration) approximately three weeks of your application for registration. Be sure to carry your Certificate of Alien Registration with you whenever you leave home. Details of the procedures and the required documents are as follows.

Type of Application	Place	Notification Period	Applicant	Required Documents
New Registration				
Immigration	Municipal office of city/town of residence	Within 90 days	(When applicant is aged 16 or over) Applicant	1. Passport 2. Photographs x 2
Birth		Within 60 days	(When applicant is aged under 16 years) Member of the applicant's Household	Proof of Birth Registration
Changes to Registered Details				
Change of Residence	Municipal office of city/town of new residence	Within 14 days of moving	Applicant or member of the applicant's household at new place of residence	
Changes Other than Change of Residence (Status of Residence, Period of Stay, etc.)	Municipal office of city/town of residence	Within 14 days of the change	Applicant or member of the applicant's household	1. Documents proving change
Amendment/Change of Name, Gender, Date of Birth, or Nationality	As above	When the situation listed at left occurs	(When applicant is aged 16 or over) Applicant (When applicant is aged under 16 years) Member of the Applicant's Household	1. Passport 2. Photographs x 2
Reissue of Certificate of Alien Registration				
Loss/Theft	As above	Within 14 days of discovery of theft or loss of the certificate	(When applicant is aged 16 or over) Applicant (When applicant is aged under 16 years) Member of the Applicant's Household	1. Passport 2. Photographs x 2 3. Report submitted to police or Proof of Loss Notification
Replacement of Certificate of Alien Registration				
Damage or Defacement of Certificate of Alien Registration	As above	As required when the situation listed at left occurs	As above	1. Passport 2. Photographs x 2
Renewal of Certificate of Alien Registration				
Expiration of Period of Validity of the Certificate of Alien Registration	As above	Within 30 days of expiration of the period of validity of the certificate of alien registration	Applicant	1. Passport 2. Photographs x 2
When Applicant Reaches the Age of 16		Within 30 days of the applicant's 16 th birthday		

Residence Procedures

When foreign nationals enter Japan, their status of residence and period of stay are decided. “Status of residence” is a qualification enabling a foreign national to reside in Japan, and the period of stay (length of time that the foreign national may stay in Japan) is decided in accordance with the status of residence. Because the documents required for the application differ according to the status of residence and residence situation, please contact one of the following offices for details.

■ Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau

Tel: 052-559-2150

■ Immigration Information Center Nagoya

Tel: 052-973-0441

■ Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/index.html>

Various Notification Procedures

■ Notification of Births/Deaths

Type of Application	Place	Notification Period	Applicant	Required Documents
Birth Registration* ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Place of birth● Municipal office of the municipality where the applicant is located	Within 14 days of birth	In the following order: ① Father or mother ② Member of applicant's household ③ Attending physician/midwife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Birth Notice (with Proof of Birth)● Maternal and Child Health Handbook*²● Health insurance card
Death Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Decreased person's registered domicile● Municipality where deceased person died● Municipal office of the municipality where the applicant is located	Within 7 days of death becoming known	Family member or member of deceased person's household	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Death Notice (with Death Certificate)● Certificate of Alien Registration of the deceased person

*1. In the event the child is to stay in Japan for 60 days or more, application for status of residence must be submitted to the Immigration Bureau within 30 days of the child's birth.

*2. Please refer to page 20.

■ Notification of Marriage/Divorce

The documents required differ according to the nationality of the applicant, so be sure to contact the embassy or consulate in Japan of the applicant's home country for details.

■ Emigration (Return to Home Country)

When you leave Japan permanently, return your Certificate of Alien Registration to the emigration officer at your port of departure. If you have received re-entry permission, do not return your Certificate of Alien Registration.

Inquiries: **Residents Division** (2F, Town Hall) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 226)

Healthcare/Welfare

Medical facilities

If you are feeling unwell, be sure to visit a doctor as soon as possible. Depending on your symptoms, you will need to go to a specialist clinic or hospital department—internal medicine; surgery; ear, nose, and throat; eye, gastroenterology; or other specialties—where you can receive the necessary treatment. When you arrive at the hospital, tell the person at the reception desk about your symptoms and they will direct you to the appropriate department.

- **Kobayashi Clinic** (internal medicine, surgery)
383-5 Kuroiwa, Sakahogi Town. Tel: 0574-25-8077
- **Sakahogi Dental Hospital** (dentist)
1439-8 Sakagura, Sakahogi Town. Tel: 0574-25-6677
- **Goto Dental Clinic** (dentist)
1090-8 Sakagura, Sakahogi Town. Tel: 0574-25-0252
- **Kizawa Memorial Hospital** (general)
590 Shimokobi, Kobi-cho, Minokamo City. Tel: 0574-25-2181
- **Ota Hospital** (internal medicine, surgery, orthopedics, dermatology)
2855-1 Ota-cho, Minokamo City. Tel: 0574-26-1251
- **Watanabe Internal Medicine Clinic** (internal medicine)
3-19-1 Fukata-cho, Minokamo City. Tel: 0574-23-1070

*Be sure to bring your health insurance card and cash for payment when you visit a medical facility for treatment.

Healthcare Insurance System

In Japan there are two healthcare systems: Health Insurance and National Health Insurance. Regardless of nationality, all people residing in Japan must enroll in one of these systems.

(1) Health Insurance

Health Insurance provides medical and lost-work time benefits when the insured person becomes ill or is injured. This system is designed to protect the health and lifestyles of people who are employed and their families. If you work full time for a business establishment, you are enrolled in this system in the same way as Japanese full-time employees, and your dependents receive the same benefits as you, the insured person.

(2) National Health Insurance

Non-Japanese nationals who have registered as a foreign resident, are residing in Japan for a period of one year or more, and cannot receive health insurance from their place of employment must enroll with their dependents in the National Health Insurance system.

① Enrollment

You can enroll in the National Health Insurance system at the Town Office Residents Division.

To enroll you will need (a) your Certificate of Alien Registration.

(b) proof of loss of health insurance coverage if you have quit work.

One health insurance card certifying that the holder is insured will be issued per household.

② Insurance Tax

You will be sent a tax notice in the mail. Regardless of whether you receive treatment at a medical facility, take the tax notice to the bank or the Town Office and pay the insurance tax amount at the end of each month. Payment via automatic bank transfer is also available. Since April 1, 2009, payment can also be made at convenience stores.

*Insurance tax is calculated based on the number of insured persons in the household and income for the previous year.

③ Medical Examinations and Insurance Benefits

When you visit a medical facility for treatment, be sure to show your health insurance card at the reception desk. After your consultation, you will need to pay 30% of the medical bill. Please note that the health insurance cannot be applied in the following cases.

◆ If you do not show your health insurance card at the medical facility when you receive treatment.

(However, if you are unable to show your health insurance card for unavoidable reasons, such as suddenly falling ill during a trip, you can apply later at the Town Office for a 70% refund of the medical bill.)

◆ Normal pregnancy and childbirth is not an illness and is therefore not covered by health insurance. However, when an insured person or dependent gives birth, they receive a lump-sum allowance for childbirth and nursing under either the Health Insurance or National Health Insurance system. Moreover, if the insured person or a dependent dies, a lump-sum funeral allowance is paid.

④ Withdrawing from Health Insurance

It is not possible to withdraw from the National Health Insurance system of your own volition, but under the following circumstances, withdrawal procedures will be followed.

◆ When you enroll in the health insurance system of your place of employment or enroll in the health insurance system of a family member as a dependent.

→ Please bring both health insurance cards to the Town Office.

◆ When you move away from Sakahogi Town (leave Japan)

→ Since you will no longer be able to use the Sakahogi Town health insurance card, be sure to return the card to the Town Office and settle your insurance tax.

*Be sure to register as a foreign resident in the town/city where you move and receive a new health insurance card. If you have received re-entry permission, you will be required to pay the insurance tax.

Inquiries: **Residents Division** (2F, Town Hall) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 224)

Various Welfare Allowances

■Special Allowance for Disabled Persons

Disabled persons aged 20 years or over who require special home nursing due to severe, multiple disabilities that make everyday living difficult are eligible for this allowance. However, persons with high incomes may be ineligible.

■Welfare Allowance for Disabled Children

Disabled children aged under 20 years who require constant nursing for everyday living due to severe disabilities are eligible for this allowance. However, persons with high incomes may be ineligible.

■Special Child Dependent's Allowance

Persons caring for or raising children aged under 20 years to whom any of the following apply are eligible for this allowance. However, persons with high incomes may be ineligible.

- Physical Disability Handbook: Level 1, 2, or 3
- Handbook for Raising Handicapped children: Levels A, A2, or B1

■Nursing Care Allowance

Persons caring for persons to whom any of the following apply are eligible for this allowance.

Certification of Nursing Care Need: Level 4 or 5

Certification of Degree of Independence in Everyday Living of Elderly Persons with Dementia: Rank IV or M

Physical Disability Handbook: Level 1 or 2

Handbook for Raising Handicapped Children: Level A (including levels A1 and A2)

Inquiries: **Welfare Division** (2F, Town Hall) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extensions 232/233)

Nursing Care Insurance

Nursing Care Insurance is a system whereby society as a whole supports elderly people so that they may lead independent lives even when it becomes necessary for them to receive nursing care or other services. Persons aged 40 and over are enrolled in the Nursing Care Insurance system and receive services when it becomes necessary for them to receive nursing care. The Nursing Care Insurance system is operated using the insurance fees paid by insured persons.

	1 st Insured Person	2 nd Insured Person
Enrolled person	Person aged 65 years or older	Person aged between 40 and 64 who is enrolled in the Health Insurance system
Person eligible to receive services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Person who requires nursing care because they are bedridden and/or have dementia. ○Person who requires assistance in performing everyday tasks such as dressing and/or housework. * Certification of nursing care need is required.	Person requiring nursing care due to one or more of 15 aging-related diseases designated by the national government, such as stroke-induced conditions or presenile dementia.
Insurance fees	Insurance fees are set by the Town under bylaws in accordance with income levels.	Insurance fees are set in accordance with the calculation method used by the health insurance system in which the person is enrolled.
Payment of insurance fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Nursing care insurance fees are deducted from pension payments for persons receiving pensions of 15,000/month or more. (However, for persons who have transferred into the system or have just turned 65 years of age, deductions are made from the following year.) ○Persons other than the above pay insurance fees by bank transfer or directly to the Town Office using the tax notice issued to them. 	Nursing care insurance fees are paid in combination with health insurance fees.
Issue of insurance card	An insurance card is issued to all insured persons.	An insurance card is issued to the person if an application has been made for certification of nursing care need.
Cost born by user	10% *However, if insurance fees are not paid for a continuous period of time, the user may be required to temporarily pay the full amount for services received or the 10% cost born by the user may be raised to 30%.	

Inquiries: **Welfare Division** (2F, Town Hall) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 233)

Taxes

The taxes we pay come back to us in the form of immediate government services that enable us to live comfortably and safely, such as schools and pools, roads and bridges, fire services, and welfare services. Taxes are paid by everyone as membership fees for communal living in the local community.

Taxes on Income

People residing in Japan for one year or more are required to pay income tax, which is paid to the national government, and residence tax, which is paid to the municipality where they live.

■Income Tax (National Tax)

Income for a one year period from January 1 to December 31 is subject to income tax. There are two methods for paying income tax.

- ① Self-assessed taxation system: A person calculates his/her own income amount, necessary expenses, and tax amount and files a tax return with the Taxation Office between February 16 and March 15, following which they pay the required tax amount.
- ② Withholding tax system: In the case of salary earners, their employers deduct the income tax amount from their monthly salaries and pay the tax amount to the Taxation Office at the end of the year.

■Residence Tax (Municipal Tax; Prefectural Tax)

Residence tax for a particular year is paid to the municipality in which the person was living as of January 1 of that year. There is no exemption if you move to another municipality or leave Japan after January 1. There are two methods for paying residence tax.

- ① Special tax collection: In the case of salary earners, as with income tax, their employers deduct the residence tax amount from their monthly salaries and pay the tax amount to the Taxation Office.
- ② Ordinary tax collection: Tax is paid in 4 times a year installments in accordance with the tax notice issued by the Municipal Office. Tax can be paid at financial institutions, post offices, convenience stores, and the Municipal Office. Automatic bank transfer is also available; contact your nearest financial institution or post office for the necessary procedures.

Taxes on Property

■Motor Vehicle Tax

Owners of vehicles of 660 cc or greater engine displacement are subject to motor vehicle tax.

■Light Motor Vehicle Tax

Owners of motorbikes or vehicles of less than 660 cc engine displacement as at April 1 of the year in question are subject to motor vehicle tax.

For vehicle registration, disposal, or transfer or change of residential address, please notify the Municipal Office.

■Fixed Property Tax

Owners of land or persons who have built houses are subject to fixed property tax. The base date is January 1 of the year in question.

Requesting Tax/Income Certification

If you require certification of tax payments or income for visa applications or other purposes, please apply to the municipality where you lived on January 1 of the year for which you require the certification.

When applying for tax/income certification, you will need your Certificate of Alien Registration, some form of personal identification, your personal seal, and processing fees. If a representative makes the application on your behalf, you will also need a letter of proxy.

Payment of Taxes

No matter what country you go to, you must pay the taxes of that country. In Japan, if you do not pay the tax by the payment date, you will be charged follow-up fees after 20 days as well as delinquent charges. Please be careful to pay taxes on time. If you move to another municipality or leave Japan permanently, please be sure to pay your taxes before undertaking procedures for leaving the town/departing the country.

Please feel free to contact the Taxation Division if you have any questions about taxes.

Inquiries: **Taxation Division** (2F, Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extensions 212/213)

Everyday Living

Employment

Work Introduction and Counseling

■ Seeking Employment

Public employment security office provide job introduction and counseling services for people seeking employment, both Japanese nationals and non-Japanese nationals who have a residence status allowing employment in Japan.

○ **Hello Work Minokamo** (1-206-9 Fukata-cho, Minokamo City) Tel: 0574-25-2178

· Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 – 17:15

*Counseling in Portuguese: Tuesday 8:30 – 11:30 and Friday 10:00 – 16:00

· Holidays: Saturdays (excluding every 2nd and 4th Saturday), Sundays, public holidays, year-end/new-year holidays (December 29 – January 3)

■ Employment Insurance (Unemployment Benefits)

Employment insurance provides workers who have lost their jobs with the benefits necessary for them to maintain a stable lifestyle and seek reemployment.

People insured under the Employment Insurance system receive unemployment benefits when they become unemployed (applies only to people with a desire and ability to work and are seeking employment).

The following conditions must be met in order for a person to receive unemployment benefits:

- The person must be enrolled in the Employment Insurance system.
- In the year before losing their job, the person must have worked 14 days or more per month for a total of six months or more.

Housing

Public Housing

In Sakahogi Town, there are two public housing apartment buildings (12 apartments) available to people experiencing difficulty obtaining housing at low rents. Certain qualifications are required to live in these apartments, and because there are so many applicants, residents are selected or decided by lottery.

○Application period: whenever a room becomes available

○Money required

Rent: decided based on the income of all residents

Deposit: 3 months' rent

Parking fee: 3,000 yen (1 vehicle per apartment)

Common service charge: 1,000 yen

○Public housing location and specifications

Location: 304-3 Katsuyama, Sakahogi Town

Floor plan: 2LDK, 3DK

Structure: reinforced concrete; 3 floors

Inquiries: **Industrial Construction Division** (2F, Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 252)

Private Housing

When looking for private rental housing, such as rental houses or apartments, visit a real estate agent in the area where you wish to live and discuss with them the kind of housing you require (location, budget, floor plan, etc.). It is recommended that you take your Certificate of Alien Registration or other form of personal identification with you, as well as someone who understands Japanese well if you do not.

■Points to Be Aware of Living in Rental Housing

There are certain rules and manners that you must observe when living in public or private rental housing.

In general, please be careful regarding the following points.

- ① You may not renovate your apartment without the permission of the owner of the apartment.
- ② You may not rent or lend your apartment to another person.
- ③ Because drains and toilets block easily, do not flush paper other than toilet paper down the toilet or cooking oil/food scraps down the sink.
- ④ Many apartment buildings do not allow pets (dogs, cats, and other small animals), so be sure to check before moving in or purchasing a pet.

Electricity and Water

Electricity

Before you move in and begin using electricity, you need to contact Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc., and tell them your name, address, telephone number, and date from which you will be using the electricity.

When you stop using the electricity, contact Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc., as soon as possible. You will need to tell them your Contract Number (written on the “Notice of Amount of Electricity Used” and “Receipt for Electricity Charges”), name, address, telephone number, date you plan to move out, and address where you will be moving.

*Note

- If you use more electricity than the capacity for your home, the circuit breaker will trip and the power will fail. When this happens, turn off all your electrical equipment and switch the circuit back on, the power will turn back on.
- In the event of major earthquakes or fires, switch off all your electrical equipment.

For further information, please contact Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc.

Inquiries: **Kamo Office, Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc.** Tel: 0574-58-2100

Water Supply/Sewage System

Water

(When you live in a rented apartment or house)

When you move in and begin using the water, or move out and stop using the water, contact your landlord or the apartment building/house manager beforehand. You will not be able to use the water until your landlord/building manager carries out the necessary procedures at the Sakahogi Town Waterworks Division. Utility rates must be paid for using water. Water rates are paid by either the landlord or the applicant (person using the water). In case the applicant is required to pay, payment can be made at designated banks or post offices, as well by automatic debit transfer from your bank account. For further details, contact the Waterworks Division.

Water supplied to homes is safe to drink straight from the tap.

Sewage

(When you live in a rented apartment or house)

When you move in and begin using the toilet (sewage system), or move out and stop using the toilet, contact your landlord or the apartment building/house manager beforehand. You will not be able to use the toilet until your landlord/building manager carries out the necessary procedures at the Sakahogi Town Waterworks Division. Utility rates must be paid for using the sewage system. Sewage rates are paid by either the landlord or the applicant (person using the sewage system). In case the applicant is required to pay, payment can be made at designated banks or post offices, as well by automatic debit transfer from your bank account. For further details, contact the Waterworks Division.

Inquiries: **Waterworks Division** (2F, Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extensions 243/244)

Garbage and Recycling

Be sure to separate and put out garbage correctly and strive to reduce garbage volume and recycle.

◎ Rules for Putting Out Garbage

- ① Put garbage out by 8:00 a.m. on the designated day;
- ② Separate garbage and put each category of garbage
- ③ in the designated garbage bag and
- ④ place at the designated collection point.

*For further information about garbage collection days, separation methods, and oversized garbage, contact the Residents Division.

◎ Garbage That is not Collected

(1) Items to which the Electric Appliance Recycling Law applies (TV sets, washing machines, refrigerators, air conditioners), pesticides, active drugs, poisons, oils and paints, fire extinguishers, tires, gas canisters, motorcycles/bicycles, batteries

→ Take the item to the store where you bought it for disposal.

(2) Building materials used in home building, extension, or renovation

→Have the building contractor dispose of any leftover materials.

(3) Large one-time amounts of garbage, such as when moving house or tree pruning

→Depending on the category of garbage, take the garbage directly to Sasayuri Clean Park in Kani City.

○Sasayuri Clean Park

839 Shuga, Kani City. Tel: 0574-65-4111

(4) Business-related garbage generated by shops, companies, or offices in the course of business activities

→Proprietor takes responsibility for garbage disposal.

Inquiries: **Residents Division** (2F, Town Hall) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 222)

Traffic

In Japan, where roads are narrow and both vehicular and pedestrian traffic is heavy, traffic accidents occur frequently. For people who have come from overseas, traffic rules may differ from those in their home countries and particular care is needed when walking along the street or driving.

In Japan, all vehicles—including cars, motorbikes, and bicycles—are driven on the left-hand side of the road in accordance with traffic signs. When traveling in a motor vehicle, be sure to fasten your seatbelt correctly and wear a helmet when riding on a motorbike. Always drive within the speed limit. Note that there are strict penalties for driving a car or riding a motorbike or bicycle after drinking alcohol.

Drivers' License

Japan is one of 90 countries in which foreign nationals are allowed to drive if they have an International Driver's License. An International Driver's License is valid for one year from the date of issue, but you may obtain a Japanese driver's license if you have a driver's license that is valid in your home country.

■Changeover Application

Person's who have a driver's license valid in a foreign country (their home country), who resided in that country for three months or more after the driver's license was issued, and who have been recognized as having the necessary and appropriate skills and knowledge to drive an automobile (determined by means of a written and practical test) may apply to obtain a Japanese driver's license.

■Necessary Items

- (1) A driver's license valid in a foreign country (the applicant's home country)
- (2) A translation of the foreign driver's license prepared by a government agency or embassy/consulate in Japan of the foreign country, or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)
- (3) Your passport (including pages showing evidence that you resided in the country for which the driver's license is valid for three or more months after the driver's license was issued)
- (4) Your Certificate of Alien Registration
- (5) A clear photograph of your head and shoulders taken within six months (no hat, front view, head-and-shoulders view, black-and-white or color) Size: 3 cm x 2.4 cm
- (6) Application fee: 2,800 yen

■Tests

Written test (may be taken in English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, or Persian)

Persons holding a valid driver's license issued by one of the following 20 countries are exempt from taking the written and practical tests (documentary examination only):

Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Greece, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria

■Advance reservations

You need to make a reservation in advance when submitting an application.

Gifu Prefectural Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre (1-22-8 Mitahorahigashi, Gifu City; Tel: 058-237-3376)

■If your address or name changes, contact your nearest police station to have the address/name on your driver's license changed.

Inquiries: **Kamo Police Station Traffic Section**. Tel: 0574-25-0110

Traffic Accidents

■If you encounter a traffic accident

① Stop your car in a safe place and turn off the engine (to prevent secondary accidents with cars that come behind you).

② Help people who are injured

(When the person appears to have comparatively minor injuries, move them to a safe place. If they are unconscious or bleeding heavily, do not move them. Implement emergency measures, such as stopping the bleeding and call an ambulance as quickly as possible.)

③ Notify the police

(If an ambulance is required, tell this to the police when you call them (110) and they will contact ambulance services for you (119).

■Counseling Concerning Traffic Accidents

You can receive free counseling from specialists on various issues arising from traffic accidents (compensation for damages, settlement methods, etc.)

Traffic Accident Counseling Office, Kamo Police Station Traffic Section

2610-1 Shimokobi, Kobi-cho, Minokamo City. Tel: 0574-25-0110

Trains

Check the name of the station you wish to go to and the train fare on the route map at the station, then buy your ticket from the automatic vending machine or the wicket. When boarding or disembarking from the train, go through the automatic ticket gates or gates manned by station staff. However, since there are no station staff at Sakahogi Station, settle your ticket fare either on the train or at your destination.

For travel on ordinary trains, pay the basic fare. For travel on Shinkansen (bullet) trains, express trains, reserved seats, and sleeping cars, a separate charge applies. Ask at the train station for further details.

Inquiries: Central Japan Railway Company (JR Tokai) Telephone Center/Service Inquiries Office

Tel: 050-3772-3910

Post Offices/Financial Institutions

Post offices provide not only postal services, such as mailing of packages, printed materials, express, and electronic mail, but also banking and insurance services. You can make account deposits, send money, transfer payments, and pay public utilities fees at post offices. Stamps and postcards can be bought not only at post offices but at stores displaying the 〒 postal mark.

International Mail

International mail can be sent via three methods: Airmail, Sea Mail, and SAL. Prices for each of these services differ depending on the weight of the parcel being mailed and the destination. With regard to speed of delivery, airmail usually takes between three to nine days to arrive; SAL between two and four weeks; and sea mail between 10 and 80 days.

When sending mail by airmail, write either “AIRMAIL” or “PAR AVION” on the front of the letter/parcel.

Other international postal services include international Express Mail Service (EMS), which enables mail delivery to major cities in one to two days and is very convenient for sending urgently needed business documents or packages, and international electronic mail (International Lettax), which enables same-day delivery of messages to major cities around the world.

■ **Sakahogi Post Office:** 419-1 Torikumi, Sakahogi Town. Tel: 0574-26-7542

■ **Minokamo Post Office:** 2169-2 Ota-cho, Minokamo City

Postal Services Section Tel: 0574-26-0735, Banking Officer, Banking/Insurance Section Tel: 0574-25-2279

Financial Institutions

You can make account deposits, send money, transfer payments, and pay public utilities fees at financial institutions. You can also send or receive international money transfers.

When opening an ordinary savings account you will need to bring your passport, Certificate of Alien Registration, and personal seal. If you have a cash card made, you can deposit and withdraw money at automatic teller machines (ATMs) as well and make transfer payments.

Financial institution hours are 9:00 to 15:00 on weekdays. Hours for ATM use differ from institution to institution.

The following financial institutions are located in or near Sakahogi Town.

- **JA Megumino Sakahogi Branch.** Tel: 0574-26-7101
- **JA Megumino Sakahogi-kita Branch.** Tel: 0574-28-1235
- **Juroku Bank Minokamo Branch.** Tel: 0574-26-0161
- **Ogaki Kyoritsu Bank Minokamo Branch.** Tel: 0574-25-2108
- **Tono Shinkin Bank Minokamo Branch.** Tel: 0574-25-3145
- **Tono Shinkin Bank Yamate Branch** Tel: 0574-27-1151
- **Gifu Bank Minokamo Branch.** Tel: 0574-25-2195
- **Gifu Shinkin Bank Minokamo Branch.** Tel: 0574-27-2511
- **Gifu Shoko Shinkin Bank Minokamo Branch.** Tel: 0574-26-3255
- **Tokai Worker's Credit Union Minokamo Branch.** Tel: 0120-608623

■ Children's Services

From Pregnancy to Child-raising

Pregnancy

When you have confirmed at a hospital that you are pregnant, you will be handed a pregnancy notification form, which you should present at the Health Center. You will be issued a Maternal and Child Health Handbook. Foreign language handbooks are also available, so please ask at the Health Center if you wish to receive a handbook in a language other than Japanese.

Health Checkups for Expectant Mothers

You will receive subsidy coupons for general health checkups for expectant mothers when you are issued your Maternal and Child Health Handbook.

Health Check-ups for Infants and Toddlers

■ Infant Health Checkups (infants aged 3-4 months and 9-10 months)

Notification of the checkups will be sent individually to the relevant families; checkups are conducted free of charge at the Health Center.

■ Health Checkups at 18 Months and 3 years

Notification of the checkups will be sent individually to the relevant families; checkups are conducted at the Health Center.

Infant Home Visits

When an infant is around two months of age, a Health Center worker will visit the infant's home to check upon the child's growth and development and answer any questions or concerns that the mother may have.

Child-rearing Counseling

Counseling services regarding child development, nutrition, and other issues are available at the Health Center.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations against infectious diseases are vital for an infant's healthy growth. The following vaccinations are provided free of charge. Be sure to have your child vaccinated when they reach the appropriate age.

◇ BCG (tuberculosis), polio (acute poliomyelitis), DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus), measles-rubella vaccine, Japanese encephalitis

Inquiries: **Health Center** (1F, Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 122)

Allowances/Aid for Children

Persons who have registered as foreign residents in Sakahogi Town are eligible to receive the following allowances.

Child Allowance

Persons rearing children aged under 12 years are eligible for this allowance. However, persons with high incomes may be ineligible.

Child-rearing Allowance

Mothers or caregivers of children aged under 18 years who do not live with their father due to divorce, death of the father, or abandonment are eligible for this allowance. However, persons with high incomes may be ineligible.

Countermeasures to the Declining Birthrate

Parents who have given birth to and are raising three or more children and have been living in Sakahogi Town for one year or more are eligible for the following allowances.

■Child Care Subsidy

Parents with three or more children receive transfer payments into their designated bank account four times per year of half the nursery school or kindergarten fees for the third and subsequent children.

■School-preparatory Allowance

Parents with three or more children receive transfer payments into their designated bank account in May of one-third of the welfare benefit standard school-preparatory allowance (lump-sum subsidy) when the third and subsequent children enter the first grade at an elementary school in Sakahogi Town.

Inquiries: **Welfare Division** (2F Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 234)

Medical Care Subsidy for Children

Children aged under 15 years are eligible for medical care subsidies when they receive treatment at a medical facility.

○Items Required for Application

- ① The child's Health Insurance Card
- ② Your personal seal
- ③ Your bank passbook

Medical Care Subsidy for Single-parent Families

Single-parent families raising children under the age of 18 years (including up until March 31 of the year after the child turns 18) are eligible for subsidies for the out-of-pocket medical costs they pay when they receive medical treatment under the Health Insurance system.

Inquiries: **Residents Division** (2F, Town Hall) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 224)

Childcare

Nursery Schools

Nursery schools provide childcare for preschool-aged children whose parents are unable to care for them during the day because of work or illness.

◆ Childcare Fees

Childcare fees are determined based on the child's age and the amount of income tax paid by their parent/guardian for the previous fiscal year.

◆ Application

Apply for childcare at the Town Office Welfare Division. We will explain to you the documents required and how to fill them in as well as the application procedures.

◆ Nursery School Services

- ① Infant Care: Childcare for infants aged from around six months upwards.
- ② Extended Childcare: If the parents/guardians are unable to drop off or pick up their children during normal childcare hours due to work, extended childcare is available. Extended childcare hours differ from nursery school to nursery school.
- ③ Short-term Childcare: In the event caring for a child at home becomes difficult in the short term due to a parent/guardian falling ill or a disaster, short-term childcare can be provided in order to lighten the burden on the parents/guardians.
- ④ Child-raising Support: Counseling, advice, and information on child raising and childcare are provided to families raising children at home.

◆ Other Points to Note

Be sure to notify the nursery school if your family moves outside Sakahogi Town or leaves Japan permanently.

◆ Nursery Schools in Sakahogi Town

There are two privately operated nursery schools in Sakahogi Town. Their childcare hours and programs differ, so contact each nursery school for further information.

○ Sakahogi Nursery School

435-1 Torikumi, Sakahogi Town. Tel: 0574-26-7366

○ Yuyu Nursery School

583-2 Kuroiwa, Sakahogi Town. Tel: 0574-26-7781

Inquiries: **Welfare Division** (2F Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 234)

School Education

The Japanese School System

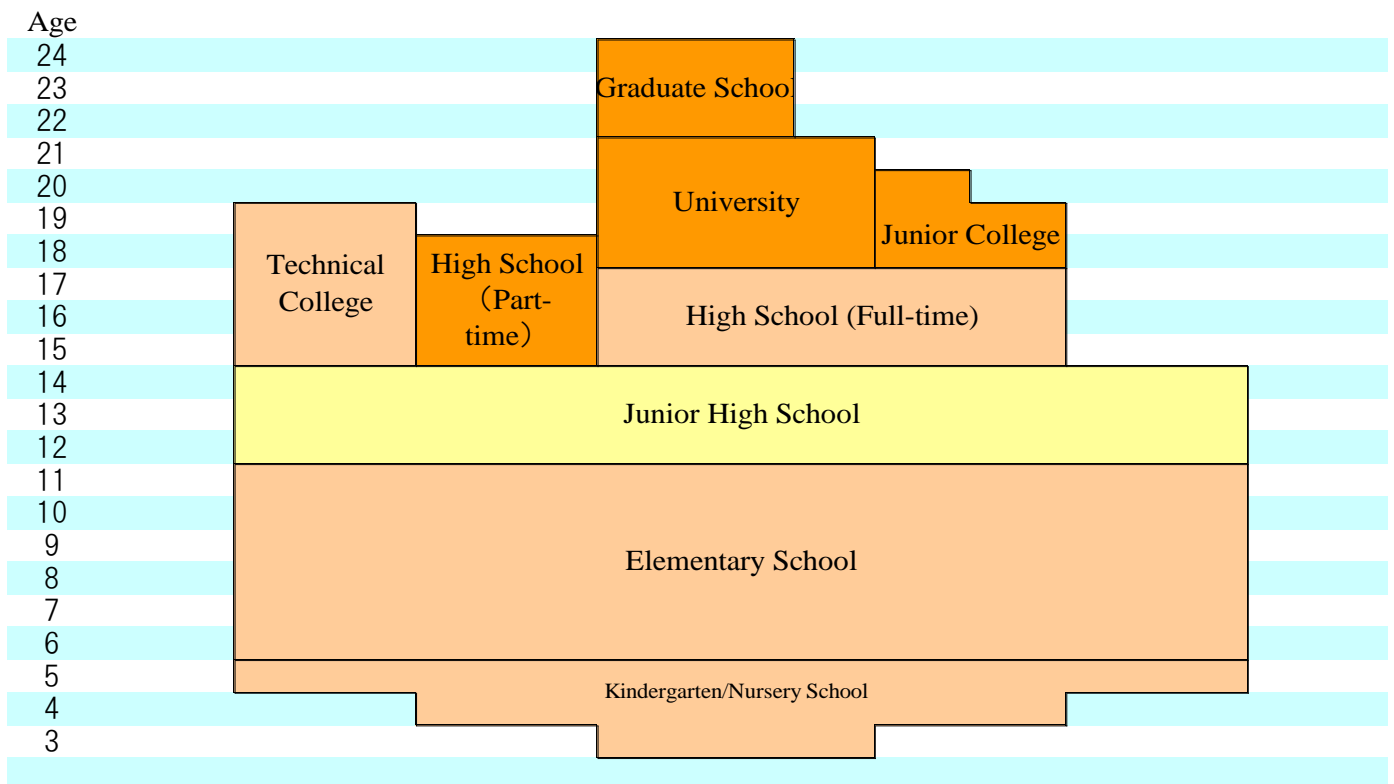
The Japanese education system basically comprises six years of elementary school, three years of junior high school, three years of high school, and four years of university. There are both publicly and privately operated educational institutions. Junior colleges (two to three years), technical colleges (five years), and a range of other vocational schools are also available.

Japanese nationals are required to attend elementary and junior high school (ages 6 to 15) as compulsory education. In the case of non-Japanese nationals, school attendance is not compulsory. However, non-Japanese nationals residing in Japan who are of the applicable age may attend public Japanese elementary and junior high schools if so desired. Applications must be made to the municipal Board of Education in which the person is registered as a foreign resident.

High school education is not compulsory. Accordingly, the principal of each high school allows students to enroll based on their assessment of the applicants' academic ability and aptitude. Tuition fees must also be paid. To qualify for entry into high school, applicants must have either graduated from a Japanese junior high school or completed nine years of formal education in a foreign country.

Tertiary education institutions in Japan provide further education for students who have completed 12 years of primary/secondary education and include universities, junior colleges, vocational colleges (professional courses), and various other schools.

The Japanese School System



Kindergarten

Kindergartens provide education for preschool-aged children (aged 3-5).

◆ Costs

(1) Childcare fees, educational materials fees, and lunch fees are paid monthly.

(2) Other costs: On entering kindergarten, uniforms and educational materials need to be purchased.

◆ Kindergarten Days

Monday-Friday; 3 terms per year with holidays between each term.

◆ Application

Go to the Sakahogi Kindergarten with your child's Certificate of Alien Registration. If there are places available, entry may be possible partway through the school year.

Elementary School/Junior High School

Although children who are non-Japanese nationals are not required to attend elementary/junior high school in Japan, we recommend that children attend school in consideration of the importance of education and the children's future.

In Sakahogi Town, there is one elementary school and one junior high school. Special classes designed to help students who are non-Japanese nationals become accustomed to the Japanese language, lifestyle, and customs are also available.

◆ Costs

Tuition and textbooks are provided free of charge, but fees for lunches and school supplies must be paid. However, subsidies are available for families for which school attendance is difficult for economic reasons and who meet the national government's criteria.

◆ School Days

Monday-Friday; 3 terms per year with holidays between each term.

◆ Application

To discuss school attendance and undertake enrollment procedures, visit the Sakahogi Board of Education's School Education Officer with your child's Certificate of Alien Registration.

Other Education Facilities

Early Childhood Home Education Classes

◆ Target Participants: Young children aged from newborns to two years of age (classes for each age level)

◆ Program Content: The program aims to assist parents/guardians in obtaining an accurate understanding of the various stages of early childhood development and learn child-rearing methods, as well as deepen friendships between participants.

◆ Program Schedule

Class for newborns: One Thursday per month September through February

Class for one-year-olds: One Friday per month April through February

Class for two-year-olds: One Wednesday per month April through February

◆ Venue: Sakahogi Town Central Community Center

◆ Participation Fee: Class fee 500 yen; Activity fee 500 yen

Kids' Dream World

This is a Sakahogi Town Children's Classroom aimed at providing a safe and secure place for children and a venue for community activities and exchange. Any elementary school student living in Sakahogi Town can participate.

◆ Program Days/Times

Weekdays March-October: 14:00-18:00
 November-February: 14:00-17:30

Saturdays: Classes centered on hands-on activities are provided several times per year and during long holidays

◆ Participation Fees

Annual membership fee: 2,000 yen *Optional sports insurance is available

◆ Activities

On weekdays, following study and reading, children play freely, enjoying storytelling, games, or crafts. On Saturdays and long holidays, children take part in hands-on activities in the Challenge Classes led by instructors from the local community.

◆ Other Points to Note

- ① Parents/guardians and/or family members (adults) must be able to participate in support activities three times or more per year.
- ② Parents/guardians and/or family members (adults) must pick up their children from Kids' Dream World.

Central Community Center Library

- ◆ Opening Hours: 9:00-17:00
- ◆ Location: 1F, Sakahogi Town Central Community Center
- ◆ Holidays: public holidays; year-end/new-year holidays
- ◆ Borrowing period: up to two weeks

Inquiries: **Board of Education** (1F, Central Community Center) Tel: 0574-26-7151

Other

In neighboring Minokamo City, there is a Brazilian Government-approved privately operated school that provides Brazilian education. Tuition fees apply.

○ **Brazilian School** (Noritake No. 2 Building, 1750-1 Ota-cho, Minokamo City)

Tel: 0574-24-1445

E-mail: sebs@brazilianschool.jp URL: www.brazilianschool.jp

◆ School Days

Monday-Friday Elementary/High School Students: 7:45-11:30
 Junior High School Students: 13:30-17:30

◆ Tuition Fees

25,000 – 30,000 yen/month (transportation service available)

◆ Other

Classes are also available for preschool aged children.

■ Entertainment

Events

In Sakahogi Town there are major events held each year in summer and autumn. Residents and Town Office staff share ideas and running of these events, and the number of attendees is increasing yearly. Non-Japanese nationals are also most welcome to participate.

Sakahogi Festival

Date: Final Saturday in July each year

Venue: Area around the Sakahogi Elementary School and on the Kiso River embankment on the south side of the school

Main Events: Fireworks display (approximately 6000 fireworks), bazaars, various stage events, etc.

Town People's Festival

Date: Third Sunday in November each year

Venue: Sakahogi Town Central Community Center

Main Events: Bazaars, various stage events, displays, free tonjiru (pork and vegetable) soup service, etc.

Inquiries: **Planning Division** (3F, Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 322)

Community Center Festival

Date: Second Saturday in March each year

Venue: Sakahogi Town Central Community Center

Main Events: Lectures/groups/clubs, presentation of study results of relevant organizations, art/craft displays, stage performances, hands-on activities, special lectures, community support, exchange activities, etc.

*Exchange activities with foreign nationals are also held.

Inquiries: **Board of Education** (1F, Central Community Center) Tel: 0574-26-7151

■ In the Event of an Emergency...

Emergency Telephone Numbers

There are two types of emergency telephone numbers.

<p>1 1 0</p> <p>(Police)</p> <p>In the case of theft, crime, traffic accidents, etc.</p>
--

<p>1 1 9</p> <p>(Fire Department / Ambulance)</p> <p>In the case of fire, emergency illness, serious injury, etc.</p>

When you telephone, try to stay calm and speak slowly. If you do not know your location, tell the operator a nearby building that can be a landmark. If you cannot explain in Japanese, ask a Japanese-speaking friend or someone nearby to make the telephone call for you.

When calling from a mobile telephone, be sure to tell the operator the name of the area from which you are calling and do not move from the area. Speak in a loud voice. Even after finishing the telephone call, do not switch off the mobile telephone.

These numbers (110 and 119) are for emergencies only. Do not call them for counseling or inquiries.

110: Theft, Crime, Traffic Accidents

Call the police (110) in the case of emergency incidents or accidents.

Points to convey when calling 110.

- ① What happened? (Traffic accident, theft, etc.)
- ② Where are you? (What is a nearby landmark?)
- ③ When did this happen?
- ④ Who is the perpetrator?
- ⑤ What is happening now?
- ⑥ What is your name, address, and telephone number? (Name, address, and telephone number of the victim, perpetrator, witness)

119: Fire (Fire Engine); Serious Injury/Sudden Illness (Ambulance)

When a fire occurs

(1) Report the fire

First of all, shout *Kaji da!* (Fire) to let people in the neighborhood know there is a fire and call for their help. Next, call the Fire Department (119).

Points to convey when calling 119 in the case of a fire.

- ① Is it a fire or an emergency?
- ② What is the address? (What is a nearby landmark?)
- ③ What is burning?
- ④ Is anyone injured or unable to escape?
- ⑤ What is your name and telephone number?

(2) Make initial efforts to extinguish/contain the fire

Until the fire engines arrive, use water and fire extinguishers to put out the flames as quickly as possible.

○How to use a fire extinguisher

- ① Pull out the safety pin.
- ② Point the hose towards the source of the fire.
- ③ Hold the lever firmly and spray the extinguisher.

*If cooking oil in a pot catches fire, first of all turn off the gas and extinguish the fire by throwing a damp towel over the pot. Attempting to extinguish the fire with water is dangerous. Similarly, if an oil heater or electrical equipment catches fire, there is a danger that the fire will intensify or you will electrocute yourself if you attempt to extinguish the fire with water.

(3) Evacuate

Although initial attempts to extinguish fire are important, if the flames reach the ceiling abandon your attempts to extinguish the fire and evacuate. To avoid breathing in poisonous smoke, before the room fills with smoke, evacuate quickly to a safe place, taking care to observe the following points.

- ① Cover your nose and mouth with a damp cloth.
- ② Keeping your body low, escape by crawling along the floor (smoke will fill the room from the ceiling downwards).

When someone is ill or injured

In case of emergencies such as sudden illness or injury due to an accident, call the Fire Department (119) to summon an ambulance.

Points to convey when calling 119 in the case of an emergency.

- ① Is it a fire or an emergency?
- ② What is the address/location? (What is a nearby landmark?)
- ③ What happened? (Illness, accident, injury?)
- ④ What is the condition of the person who is ill/injured?
- ⑤ What is the name, age and gender of the person who is ill/injured?
- ⑥ What is your name and telephone number?

Before the ambulance arrives, make sure you have cash and the Health Insurance Card of the ill/injured with you. When you hear the ambulance siren, go outside and guide the ambulance to the ill/injured person.

○How to use a public telephone in an emergency

- ① Pick up the receiver.
- ② Press the red emergency button.
- ③ Press either 110 (Police) or 119 (Fire Department).

Both 110 and 119 are toll-free numbers; coins for the telephone are not required to make emergency calls.

In the case of red telephones, which take only coins, tell the staff in the store where the telephone is located that you need to make an emergency call.

Disasters

Disasters and Japan's Climate/Environment

Rainy Season: In Japan, it rains frequently during the months of June and July. Localized heavy rainfall can cause landslides and floods.

Typhoons: Occurring between July and October, typhoons bring strong winds and heavy rain. In addition to the similar damage caused by the rainy season, for typhoons, there is the danger of injury caused by flying objects and flooding in coastal areas caused by tidal waves. Be sure to take precautions, such as closing window shutters securely and refraining from going outside during typhoons.

Earthquakes: Earthquakes occur frequently in Japan, with one (including minor tremors) occurring somewhere in the country virtually every day. Sometimes following earthquakes, tsunami warnings need to be issued for coastal areas.

Disaster Readiness

- ① Keep valuables (cash and bank passbooks) and other important items together in a handy place so that you can quickly take them with you when you evacuate.
- ② Make sure that you know where the closest evacuation center is and the evacuation route.
- ③ Decide where your family members should meet if disaster strikes at a time when you are not together. Also check and confirm emergency telephone numbers and people with whom you can communicate who will pass on information about the safety of your family members.
- ④ Prepare the minimum amount of items required for living at the evacuation center and store these in a handy place so that you can quickly take them with you when you evacuate.

List of Emergency Evacuation Items

Valuables: cash, bank passbook, personal seal, health insurance card, etc.

Emergency provisions: biscuits, canned food, and other food that does not require cooking; cup noodles; water (PET bottles), and if you have an infant, powdered milk

Portable radio: a small and lightweight radio that picks up both AM and FM

Flashlight: preferably one for each family member. Do not forget to pack extra batteries and light bulbs.

Emergency supplies: disinfectant and ointment for treating wounds; bandages and band-aids; and cold, digestive, and other medicines. If you take medicine normally, do not forget to pack extra amounts.

Other: clothing, hygiene products (towels, tissues, soap, etc.), lighters, knives, gloves, helmets, blankets, sanitary products, disposable diapers, baby bottles, etc.

Weather and Disaster Information on Television/Radio

When heavy rains are forecast or a typhoon is approaching, weather and disaster information will be broadcast frequently on television/radio. Pay careful attention to this information.

Ten Conditions for Alleviating Concern in an Earthquake

Japanese buildings are constructed in accordance with certain standards, and so there is less risk of them collapsing in an earthquake. However, Japanese buildings are often made of highly flammable materials, such as wood and paper, and because houses are built so close together, there is the possibility of fires spreading when they occur.

Because of these uniquely Japanese circumstances, please take the following actions in the event of an earthquake.

- ① First of all, protect yourself.

If you are at home or at school, hide under a table, desk, or other sturdy furniture and wait for the shaking to stop.

- ② Turn gas (stoves, heaters) off quickly.

If you were cooking or otherwise had the gas on, turn it off immediately and turn the gas off at the main. (Be careful not to burn yourself with oil or boiling water.)

③ Secure an exit.

Earthquake tremors can cause doors to buckle and become stuck. If an earthquake occurs, open your front door to secure an exit.

④ Extinguish fire immediately.

If a fire should occur, shout loudly for your neighbors to come and help and work together to begin to extinguish the fire.

⑤ Do not panic and rush outside.

If you panic and rush outside, you could be injured by falling bricks and signs, etc. Stay calm.

⑥ Do not go near narrow streets, precipices, or rivers.

Avoid places where concrete block walls could fall, precipices, or rivers.

⑦ Walk to the evacuation center and minimize belongings.

When you evacuate, walk to the evacuation center. Carry the minimum quantity of items with you in a rucksack or other bag on your back.

⑧ Work with everyone to perform emergency relief activities.

Many people are injured when there is a large earthquake. Neighbors need to help each other in performing emergency relief activities.

⑨ Obtain accurate information.

Pay attention to information from the Town Office and information broadcast on TV/radio. Do not be misled by false or inaccurate information.

⑩ Talk about the possibility of disasters occurring.

At home, school, and work, talk about measures to take if a disaster occurs, on a routine basis.

Evacuation

The following locations are designated evacuation centers. Group together with your neighbors and evacuate together as instructed.

■Evacuation Centers

Name	Location	Telephone Number
1. Sakahogi Elementary School	Torikumi 35	0574-26-7105
2. Sakahogi Junior High School	Fukagaya 146	0574-26-7512
3. Central Community Center	Kuroiwa 1260-1	0574-26-7151
4. General Welfare Center Sun Life Sakahogi	Kuroiwa 162	0574-27-1222
5. Eastern Hall	Sakagura 770-8	
6. Sakahogi Kindergarten	Kuroiwa 20	0574-26-7913
7. Western Hall	Fukagaya 70-2	

■Temporary Evacuation Areas (Residents' Association Assembly Facilities)

Name	Location
8. Ishiki Community Center	Sakagura 169-5
9. Open space on the south side of the Sakagura Fire Station	Sakagura 423-1
10. Chaya Community Center	Sakagura 2483
11. Nakagumi Community Center	Sakagura 632-2
12. Kumoume Community Center	Sakagura 788-1
13. Ohari Community Center	Ohari 220
14. Kamoyama No. 1 Assembly Hall	Kamoyama 1-19-7
15. Kamoyama No. 2 Assembly Hall	Kamoyama 2-10-1
16. Kuroiwa Community Center	Kuroiwa 609-2
17. Fukagaya Community Center	Fukagaya 563-1
18. Katsuyama Community Center	Katsuyama 230-1
19. Torikumi West Community Center	Torikumi 684-1
20. Torikumi East Community Center	Torikumi 403
21. Katsuyama Inaba Assembly Hall	Katsuyama 480

Preparation for Evacuation

① Pay attention to calls to evacuate.

When danger is near at hand, pay careful attention to weather information on the TV/radio and to evacuation information from the Town Office. Be careful as announcements from broadcasting vehicles and radio transmissions may be difficult to hear over the noise of wind and rain.

② Evacuation after flooding is dangerous.

Put on clothing that is easy to move in and evacuate before flooding occurs. Act together in pairs or groups. Do not go near flooded roads as there is a danger of you falling through manholes or being swept away by the

current.

③ If you are unable to evacuate...

Evacuation is possible if the water level is below your knees. Any flowing water is dangerous as it is easy to lose your footing even if the water is shallow. If you are unable to evacuate for some reason, escape to a sturdy nearby building of three or more floors.

④ Evacuate quickly.

At night and in rain, the average walking speed is 1.5 km to 2 km per hour. For this reason, it is vital that you evacuate as quickly as possible if your household includes elderly or disabled persons or young children. Neighbors should help each other as they evacuate.

⑤ Be careful of landslides.

Close to hilly/mountainous areas, be careful of landslides. Be very careful if you have to walk along mountain roads when you evacuate.

⑥ Avoid evacuating by car.

Evacuating by car invites traffic congestion, there is the danger of the car stalling on flooded roads, and emergency vehicles may not be able to get through. As a rule, always evacuate on foot.

Inquiries: **General Affairs Division** (3F, Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111 (extension 314)

■ Main Community Facilities in Sakahogi Town

Sakahogi Town Office

Address: 46-18 Torikumi Tel: 0574-26-7111

Open Hours: 8:30-17:15

Holidays: Saturdays (excluding mornings of every 2nd and 4th Saturday), Sundays, public holidays, year-end/new-year holidays, (December 29 - January 3)

■ Main Divisions and Officers

General Affairs Division (3F, Town Office): disaster prevention, crime prevention, traffic safety, statistics, elections, etc.

Planning Division (3F, Town Office): public relations, tourism, international exchange, etc.

Taxation Division (2F, Town Office): counseling regarding tax levying/payment, etc.

Accounting Office (2F, Town Office): payment of taxes and fees, etc.

Residents' Division (2F, Town Office): foreign national registration, residence certificates, Health Insurance system applications, National Health Insurance enrollment procedures, etc.

Welfare Division (2F, Town Office): elderly and disabled people's welfare, nursery school enrollment procedures, child allowance applications, etc.

Waterworks Division (2F, Town Office): water/sewage connection, payment of fees, etc.

Industrial Construction Division (2F, Town Office): road construction/maintenance, applications for public housing, etc.

Health Center (1F, Town Office): health checks, health/child-raising counseling, etc.

Community Inclusion Support Center (2F, Town Office): elderly nursing care/lifestyle and general counseling, etc.

Central Community Center

Address: 1260-1 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-26-7151

Open Hours: 8:30-17:15

Holidays: Mondays, public holidays, year-end/new-year holidays (December 29 - January 3)

■ Main Divisions and Officers

School Education Officer: elementary school/junior high school entrance procedures, etc.

Social Education Officer: applications for use of sporting/recreation facilities, library borrowing, etc.

Sporting Facilities

■ General Playing Ground

Address: 111-1 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-26-7151

Facilities: 17,095 m² area (lighting available)

Open Hours: 6:00-21:30

■ Community Playing Ground

Address: 35-4 Torikumi Tel: 0574-26-7151

Facilities: 6,302 m² area (lighting available)

Open Hours: 6:00-21:30

■Multipurpose Grounds

Address: 143-1 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-26-7151

Facilities: Gate golf course, ground golf course * Use is free of charge

■Sports Dome

Address: 1260-1 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-26-7151

Facilities: Indoor sporting facilities (1,647m²) (2 x gateball courts, 3 x mini volleyball courts, 2 x tennis courts)

Open Hours: 8:30-21:30

■General Playing Grounds Tennis Courts

Address: 111-1 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-26-7151

Facilities: 4 tennis courts (artificial grass with sand) (lighting available)

Open Hours: 6:00-21:30

■Eastern Hall

Address: 770-8 Sakagura Tel: 0574-26-7151

Facilities: Indoor sporting facilities (volleyball courts, badminton courts, table-tennis tables, meeting rooms)

Opening Hours: 8:00-21:30

■ Western Hall

Address: 370-2 Fukagaya Tel: 0574-26-7151

Facilities: Indoor sporting facilities (volleyball courts, badminton courts, table-tennis tables, assembly rooms(2 x 12 mat tatami rooms), training room, cooking classroom

*Contact the Sakahogi Town Office Industrial Construction Division regarding use of assembly rooms.

Open Hours: 8:00-21:30

Recreation Facilities

■Community Fureai Pool

Address: 109 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-26-9566

Facilities: 25m pool, wading pool, water slide

Car park: 66 parking spaces; No. 2 car park (multipurpose grounds): 180 parking spaces

Open Period: July 18 to August 31

Open Hours: 9:00-17:00

Entrance Fee: Adults (high school students and above) 500 yen; Elementary and junior high school students 200 yen

Welfare Facilities

■General Welfare Center Sun Life Sakahogi

Address: 162 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-27-1222

Facilities: Functions as a community welfare center and elderly welfare center and is a base for community welfare.

Open Hours: 9:00-15:30

Closed: Every 1st and 3rd Sundays, year-end/New-Year holidays (December 29-January 3)

■Day Service Center

Address: 162 Kuroiwa Tel: 0574-27-1223

Closed: Sundays, year-end/New-Year holidays (December 29-January 3)

■Health Center

Address: 46-18 Torikumi (1F, Town Office) Tel: 0574-26-7111

Open Hours: 8:30-17:15

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, year-end/New-Year holidays

■ Other

Japanese Public Holidays and Other Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1	Day for celebrating the start of the new year
Coming-of-Age Day	Second Monday in January	Day for celebrating the coming-of-age of young people and encouraging them as they gain awareness of themselves as adults and members of society.
National Foundation Day	February 11	Day for commemorating the founding of the nation and for fostering patriotism.
Spring Equinox Day	March 20	Day for praising nature and showing love for all living creatures.
Day of Showa	April 29	Day for looking back on the Showa Era, in which the nation was restored after tremendous turmoil, and thinking about the nation's future.
Constitution Memorial Day	May 3	Day for commemorating the enforcement of the Japanese Constitution and reaffirming hope in the growth of the nation.
Greenery Day	May 4	Day for enjoying nature and expressing appreciation for the blessings of nature, as well as nurturing the richness of spirit (a public holiday if the preceding and following days are holidays).
Children's Day	May 5	Day for respecting children's personalities and expressing wishes for their happiness, as well as for expressing gratitude to mothers.
Marine Day	Third Monday in July	Day for expressing appreciation for the blessings of the ocean as well as wishing for the prosperity of Japan as a maritime nation.
Respect-for-the-Aged Day	Third Monday in September	Day for showing respect and affection for the elderly who have devoted themselves to society for so many years, and for celebrating their long life.
Autumnal Equinox Day	September 23	Day on which ancestors are honored and the deceased are remembered.
National Sports Day	Second Monday in October	Day for enjoying sports and fostering a sound mind and body.
Culture Day	November 3	Day for celebrating love of freedom and peace and promoting culture.
Labor Thanksgiving Day	November 23	Day for praising labor, celebrating production, and the people giving thanks for each other's efforts.
Emperor's Birthday	December 23	Day for celebrating the Emperor's Birthday.

Lifestyle Guidebook

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