

PIT STOP

USED CAR SALES

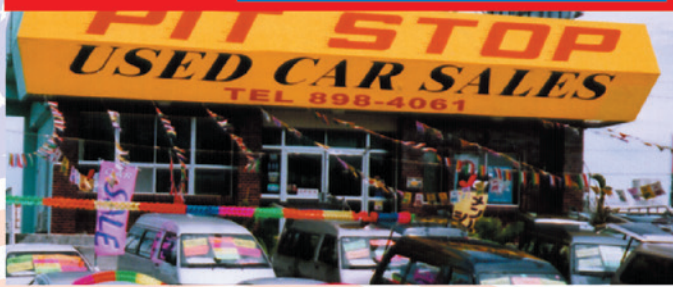
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FREE towing is available for unwanted scrap vehicles.

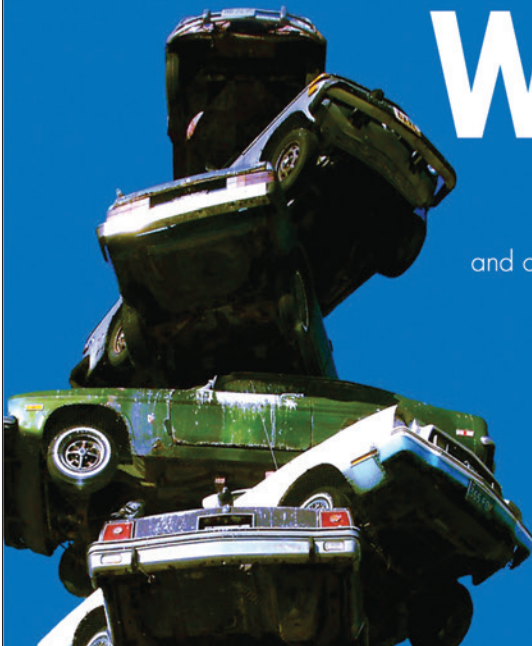
Used auto parts available

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Closed Sunday

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VISIT OUR NEW SHOP NEAR
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 (PEDESTRIAN GATE)





DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Driver Education Program is tailored to aid service members and their families stationed on Okinawa with their POV licensing needs. This program features American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA)/AAA certified courses which includes 39 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction for those in need. Students who complete the Driver Education Program will receive their SOFA driver's permit in Japan. For more information on the Driver Education Program, turn to p. 99.

SEATBELTS AND SAFETY

Seatbelt use is mandatory in both the front and back seats. Drivers can be stopped and ticketed, both on and off base, for not wearing a seatbelt.

BUS LANES

Do not drive in the bus lane from 7:30 to 9 a.m. (southbound) and from 5:30 to 7 p.m. (northbound) on Route 58. The bus lane is the far left lane and is painted green. On weekdays, these lanes are reserved for buses, on-duty taxis, motorcycles, mopeds and other authorized vehicles. Drivers of passenger cars can only use the lane immediately prior to turning left (about 120 feet before the turn). There are cash penalties for misusing the bus lane and it is patrolled regularly. Bus lanes aren't reserved on weekends or Japanese holidays. Buses and emergency vehicles always have the right-of-way.

DRIVING TIPS

NEWCOMERS' ORIENTATION & WELCOME ABOARD (NOWA)

Before they start driving, all eligible newly arrived accompanied (all ranks) and unaccompanied (E-6 and above) Marine Corps and Navy personnel, civilian employees and family members are required to attend NOWA (Newcomers' Orientation & Welcome Aboard)—a comprehensive brief within two weeks of arrival. Attendance is mandatory prior to receiving certain privileges such as a USFJ SOFA driver's permit.



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ILLEGAL PARKING

The driver or owner of an illegally parked vehicle is liable for the payment of the ticket, towing expenses and storage fees.

SPEEDING

Keep to the posted speed limits on island, which are in kilometers, not miles per hour. There are speed traps everywhere, and the Okinawa Expressway is patrolled by unmarked cars. Speeding tickets are very expensive and drivers will have points deducted from their license, if they do not lose it outright.

PEDESTRIANS

As in the U.S., drivers must yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk. Be very careful to watch for children regardless of whether a crosswalk is marked. In school, they are taught to put their hand in the air with their palm toward traffic before immediately crossing the street.

Japanese drivers almost always stop (as they are trained to do in driver's ed). However, children may not always wait to see if drivers have stopped before crossing.



MOTORCYCLES

Applicants must have a valid operator's permit and successfully complete a course approved by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) to qualify for a motorcycle endorsement. This training is provided by Base Safety Motorcycle Training School, or the training can be completed at another MSF accredited facility. If the completion certificate is more than three years old, refresher training will be provided. Riders with less than one year of experience may only operate bikes less than 600cc (4-stroke) or 200cc (2-stroke) displacement. In addition, a minimum of one year of experience is required to carry a passenger.

Personal Protective Equipment for motorcycle operators is required at all times and riders must always wear helmets. Please note that motorcycles are restricted to the far-left lane in either direction on Route 58 from Naha Port to Kadena Circle, Route 329 from Uruma (Ishikawa) to Naha and Route 330 from Okinawa City to Naha, except within 30 meters (100 feet) of a right-hand turn. For more information, contact Base Safety at 645-3806.

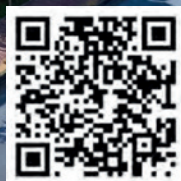
DUI & DWI

- Drinking and driving on Okinawa carries very stiff penalties.
- Driving while intoxicated (DWI) may garner confinement up to five years or a fine up to ¥1 million. Driving under the influence (DUI) could mean confinement up to three years or a fine up to ¥500,000. Even refusing a sobriety check may lead to confinement for up to three months or a fine up to ¥500,000.
- Under previous laws, if you were a host who provided vehicle keys to an impaired driver, knowingly served alcohol to a driver or were a passenger in a car driven by a drunk driver, you were subject to an accomplice charge. However, under revised traffic law, you are now subject to penalties as severe as those levied on the driver. Be safe and responsible; don't drink and drive.
- MCCS Clubs and Restaurants offer complimentary soft drinks, tea or coffee for designated drivers and will assist patrons in calling a taxi or daiko.

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Relax in our exclusive lounge or the sunlit
year-round pool while the kids are at play.



GRAND MERCURE
OKINAWA CAPE ZANPA RESORT



LICENSE PLATES

You can recognize other SOFA-status drivers by their “Y,” “E” and “A” and “B” license plates.

FLUIDS

Okinawa can become very hot during the summer, so check your oil, radiator and battery fluid levels more often than you might in a milder climate. If fluids evaporate, cars may overheat or not start at all. If your car is overheating, find the closest safe area to stop and turn off your engine. Continuing to drive on an overheating engine usually damages the engine beyond repair. Stop by the nearest MCCS Typhoon Motors to have your fluid levels and cooling systems checked.

TOWING

If your car is impounded off base, call PMO at 098-970-7441 for the location of the nearest Japanese police station. If your car is towed while on a Marine Corps installation, call 637-2210/6073. If towed on Kadena Air Base, call 634-2475.

If your car breaks down, keep in mind that MCCS Typhoon Motors offers island-wide towing services (9 a.m.–6 p.m. daily) for people with automotive problems. To schedule your pick-up, call 090-3794-2556.

ROAD TAX

Annual road taxes are due each May and range from ¥1,000 to ¥40,000, payable at almost every base during specific dates and times (which is publicized well in advance). Minicar (“A” & B plate) and motorcycle taxes must be paid at Japanese city offices in April.

VEHICLE TIPS

Active-duty service members and all civilian SOFA status personnel who have no intention of selling their vehicle must deregister it prior to PCSing or purchasing another vehicle. When selling a vehicle, ensure that the title has been changed into the new owner’s name. Car owners who abandon, do not complete a title transfer or do not properly dispose of their vehicles are held liable for all future costs incurred, including taxes, towing, deregistration and disposal.

PARKING

It is fairly common to encounter parked vehicles that are dangerously blocking traffic. Although you may see some drivers on Okinawa parking wherever they want, do not follow suit. Park in designated areas when off base or you may have to pay more than \$200 at a local police station to get your car back. You may also be required to pay towing and storage fees.

Okinawa's reliable auto repair shop since 1965.

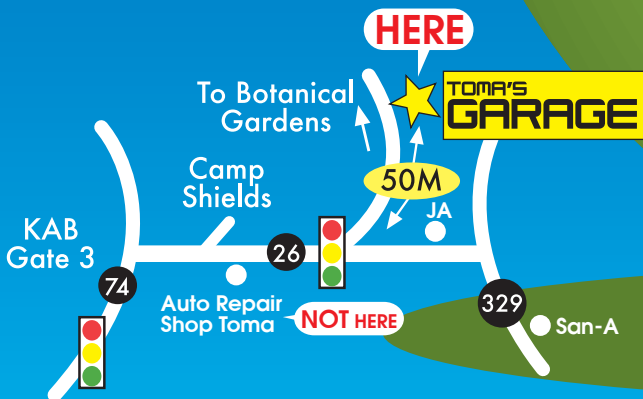
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OFF-BASE ACCIDENTS

Japan is a shared-negligence jurisdiction, which means several people may be held financially responsible for one accident. If your negligence contributed to an accident, you may bear partial financial responsibility for the accident even if the other driver was also negligent.

Based upon the accident report, similar accidents and additional information, your insurance company will determine who is at fault and what percentage of responsibility each party will bear. But if the injured person complains that you are avoiding financial responsibility, the case may be referred for criminal prosecution.

Alternatively, the injured Japanese person may file a civil suit against you, the driver, as well as filing a possible claim against the U.S. if you were operating a government vehicle while on duty. While the U.S. government may, in isolated cases, pay on the claim if it exceeds your insurance, the settlement often takes years and is not always favorable.

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

Japanese criminal courts use the term professional negligence to describe the concept that any driver can be criminally responsible if he or she causes an accident that results in personal injury or death. A person convicted of committing professional negligence can be imprisoned and heavily fined.

Prosecutors have some discretion as to the types of cases they will charge under the professional negligence doctrine. Typically, the prosecutor will only pursue a case that involves serious injury or death. In cases of obvious guilt, quick action to settle with the injured parties minimizes the risk of criminal action.

Within a day after the accident, you should have begun trying to settle claims, visiting injured parties

and presenting condolence gifts. Expressing sincere regret for the accident and sympathy for any injured persons is invaluable in Japan.

Solatium is generally a gift or money given at a condolence visit and is highly recommended in cases of serious injury. Solatiums generally range from ¥10,000 to ¥20,000 but may be up to ¥50,000 for cases of severe injury or death. If the driver involved was an official on duty, the U.S. government might pay official solatium. That, however, does not replace the solatium payment expected from the driver.

A condolence visit and gift are always appropriate if a Japanese person is injured in an accident in which you were involved, regardless of fault.

A small, nicely wrapped gift, such

as a box of chocolates and a card, will reflect your sympathy, and is not seen as an admission of guilt.

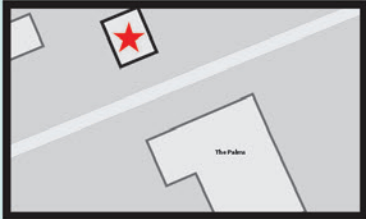
If you are involved in an off-base accident, you can expect to be asked questions at the scene by a Japanese police officer, as well as a U.S. law enforcement official. The insurance adjusters will make the authoritative determination of who is at fault.

Finally, the Japanese prosecutor's office will determine whether you should be prosecuted. Even if prosecuted, when a court determines the appropriate punishment, it normally acts more favorably to the person who compensated injured parties and expressed sincere sorrow. *Information courtesy of 18th Wing SJA & MCIPAC SJA.*

ACCIDENT CHECKLIST

- Get help for injured parties.
- Immediately notify the Japanese police and the nearest U.S. military police office so they can respond to the scene.
- Never leave the scene of an accident until the police have authorized you to do so. Leaving the scene of an accident is a serious crime for which the Japanese government may prosecute you.
- Notify your insurance company of the accident immediately. Many voluntary liability insurance policies deny coverage if you do not report an accident immediately. The majority of the companies have a provision that exempts them from liability for any accident for which they do not receive notice within 90 days. Some companies have a 30-day deadline.

Hansen Typhoon Motors



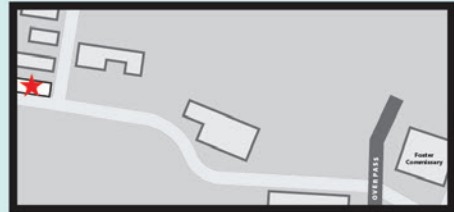
Bldg. 2715 | 623-7743

Courtney Typhoon Motors



Bldg. 4151 | 622-9546

Foster Typhoon Motors



Bldg. 5613 | 645-1273

Kinser Typhoon Motors



Kinser Auto Skills
Bldg. 611 | 637-2191

Kinser Auto Recovery and Towing
Bldg. 611 | 637-3645



A FEW TIPS

Don't exceed the speed limit. Tempting though it may be to go beyond the posted limit, fines can top ¥40,000 and accumulate points against a driver's license. Licenses can also be suspended anywhere from 15 days to a year if caught speeding.

BREAKDOWNS

If vehicles break down on the expressway, drivers should go to the nearest call box and pick up the receiver. There is no keypad, but someone will answer immediately. First, the stranded driver should ask if the person speaks English. They will then be dispatched to the Provost Marshal's Office (PMO). Once connected to PMO, ask to be connected to MCCS Typhoon Motors island-wide towing line (090-3794-2556).

EXITS

Ginoza (9) is the closest exit to Camp Schwab, and Kin (8) is the closest exit to Camp Hansen. The Ishikawa (6) and Okinawa-Kita (5) exits are almost equidistant from Camps Courtney and McTureous. Okinawa-Minami (4) is the exit closest to Kadena Air Base/Gate 2 Street. Kitanakagusuku (3) is the exit closest to Camp Foster and MCAS Futenma, and Nishihara (2) exit is the closest to Camp Kinser. Rates depend on distance and vehicle type and range from ¥200 to ¥1,200. Toll gates also accept major credit cards.

ELECTRONIC TOLL COLLECTION

One option for frequent expressway users is Electronic Toll Collection (ETC). ETC requires a Japanese bank account and the purchase of an IC card and a transceiver, which is installed in your car and available at most auto shops. ETC users drive through a special lane at the toll gate and payment is sent via a radio signal from your transceiver to an antenna at the gate. Some off-base shops such as Autobacs & Yellow Hat, as well as companies such as JapanETCcard.com can assist with setting up ETC for SOFA vehicles.

MOTORCYCLES

Although motorcycles carrying passengers are allowed on Okinawa's expressway, certain restrictions apply. For more information, contact Base Safety at 645-3806.

EXPRESSWAY

When driving north or south on Okinawa, the fastest route is the Okinawa Expressway. The entrance ramps on this toll road indicate north to Nago or south to Naha or Haebaru. Be careful to select the correct ramp, as there is no place to turn around on the expressway, so a mistake will cause unnecessary delay and cost.



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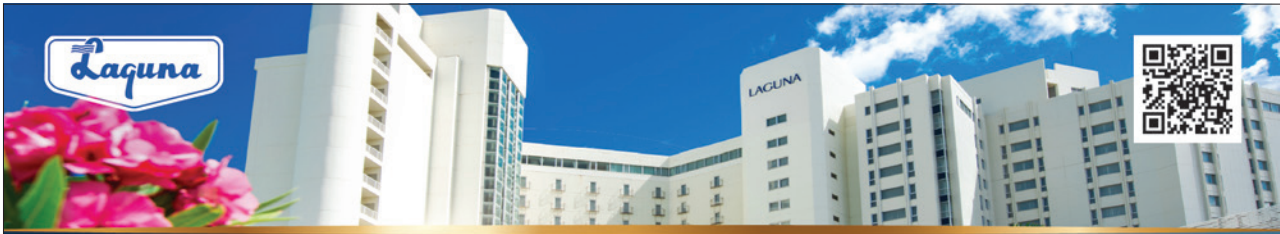
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Drinking?



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for Taxi/Daiko numbers





BUSES, TAXIS & MONORAIL

OKINAWA BUSES

Off-base buses go almost anywhere. As you board the bus, you'll find a ticket-dispensing machine. The ticket number corresponds with the zone in which you were picked up. On each bus, you'll see an electronic display above the windshield set up like a grid. Locate the zone number that corresponds to your ticket. As the bus moves from zone to zone, the sign will light up, highlighting your fare (yen only). Before you reach your stop, press one of the buttons along the side of the bus. Check the lit display for your total fare. Then put your ticket and money (coins & bills only) into the hopper next to the driver. The dispenser only takes exact change, but buses are always equipped with money changers.

Buses display a large number indicating their route. Different color buses may run the same route, so always check the number. The only two exceptions to this rule are the Makishi and Kumoji buses, which run the Naha-Henoko, the Naha-Nago and the Naha-Uruma routes. These buses take modified courses when they enter Naha. To find out more about Okinawa's buses and their routes, contact your nearest Marine & Family Programs-Resources Center and ask for the booklet entitled "Commercial Bus Routes."

THE GREEN LINE

The Green Line is operated by Marine Corps Base Garrison Mobile Equipment and provides free bus transportation to SOFA personnel between Marine Corps camps across the island and within each camp daily. Schedules and hours of operations can be found on the MCIPAC website or call 645-3843 for details.



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TAXIS

Taxis, though reliable and readily available, can be expensive, especially for long distances. A couple of things to remember about local taxis: the rear passenger doors are opened automatically by the driver and it is not customary to tip the driver.

EXCHANGE DAIKO SERVICE

As driving while intoxicated is not an option, there is an alternative that allows drivers to bring their vehicles to a locale where they can enjoy an alcoholic beverage and still get home safely, with their car, without risking lives and careers—it's called a daiko service. The service is simple—a daiko vehicle arrives at the patron's location with two licensed drivers. One daiko driver takes the patron's car and the other drives the follow vehicle, delivering vehicle and driver home safely. Simply call the number (098-932-4035 or 098-970-888 and press #9) from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily, give the dispatcher your location, a description of your vehicle and your final destination. Please note that although all daiko services are fully insured for your protection, insurance regulations require customers to ride in their own vehicle. The daiko driver will drive your vehicle to your destination.

MONORAIL

The Yui Rail is a monorail that serves Urasoe, Naha and Shuri in southern Okinawa. Each stop on the monorail offers ample opportunity for adventure and exploration, but most have little or no free parking. At every station, you will find a map in English that outlines major areas of interest.

THE STATIONS

NAHA KŪKŌ, AKAMINE & OROKU

The Naha Kūkō Station offers easy access to the airport, complete with a covered walkway to the entrance. Oroku Station sits right next to an AEON Department Store, which offers shopping, ample free parking and a Starbucks.

ONOYAMA, TSUBOGAWA, ASAHIBASHI, & KENCHO-MAE

Onoyama Station is within walking distance of Onoyama Park (where the All-Island Youth Eisa Festival is held in late August). Asahibashi Station gives Yui Rail passengers easy access to Naha Port, the Naha Bus Terminal and OPA Department Store/Mall. And, Kencho-Mae Station is located at the head of Kokusai Street. The station itself is connected to the entrance of the Palette Ryubu Department Store, which features upscale shopping, art displays, kimono shows and more.



MIEBASHI, MAKISHI, ASATO & OMOROMACHI

Makishi and Miebashi Stations, located along the central portion of Kokusai Street, give access to the Heiwa Dori covered market, the Tsuboya Pottery Street and Museum, as well as the Makishi Public Market. Asato Station lies in close proximity to the ancient Sogenji stone gates. Omoromachi Station is located a stone's throw from the San-A Main Place Shopping Mall and DFS T-Galleria.

FURUJIMA, SHIRITSU BYOIN-MAE, GIBO & SHURI

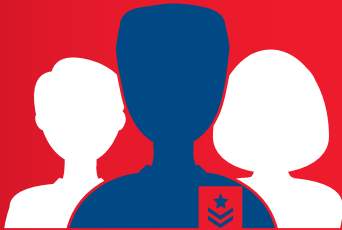
Furujima Station is near the northern area of Shintoshin. Shiritsu Byoin-Mae Station lies in close proximity to the Naha City Hospital and Sueyoshi Park. Gibo Station offers access to Hotel Nikko Grand Castle.

ISHIMINE, KYOZUKA, URASOE-MAEDA & TEDAKO-URANISHI

This newly opened extension of the Yui Rail line includes Kyozyuka Station near the San-A Kyozyuka City Mall Urasoe-Maeda Station (which is up the street from the Urasoe City Police Station) as well as Tedako-Uranishi Station which offers a Park and Ride parking lot, and is walking distance from Hacksaw Ridge, Urasoe Dai Koen Park and the Urasoe Art Museum.



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No Federal, DoD, Marine Corps, or MCCA endorsement intended or implied.

TYPHOONS

Okinawa is the largest island of the Ryukyu Archipelago, which is located in the subtropical region south of mainland Japan. Average temperatures on the island hover around 81 °F from May until mid-September and around 60 °F in the winter. While this can be considered quite comfortable, the hot, humid summers can spawn intense storms called typhoons.

Known as hurricanes in the United States, these powerful weather systems occur when the warm water of the southern Pacific Ocean (between the Philippines and Guam) combines with cooler air from higher latitudes. Oftentimes, a typhoon will start near the Mariana Islands and travel northwest toward Okinawa and mainland Japan.

Okinawa is equipped with a sophisticated tracking system that warns island residents well in advance of an approaching storm. Typhoon tips and precautions are broadcast over AFN TV and radio, and current updates can also be found at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (usno.navy.mil/JTWC) and at Kadena Weather (kadena.af.mil/agencies/local-weather).





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TCCOR

(TROPICAL CYCLONE CONDITION OF READINESS)

TCCOR 5: Destructive winds are possible within 96 hours. TCCOR 5 is only used outside of the established typhoon season.

TCCOR 4: Destructive winds are possible within 72 hours. TCCOR 4 remains in effect from June 1 to November 30 every year on Okinawa. Residents should ensure that they have an adequate supply of nonperishable food, drinking water and emergency supplies.

TCCOR 3: Destructive winds are possible within 48 hours. Residents should initiate a general cleanup around homes and offices, fill vehicle and grill gas tanks, ensure you have sufficient cash on-hand and important documents are easily accessible.

TCCOR 2: Destructive winds are anticipated within 24 hours. All outside items should be removed, secured or brought indoors.

TCCOR 1: Destructive winds are anticipated within 12 hours. DoDDS students are released from school. DoDDS staff and teachers work normal hours, unless otherwise ordered by the DoDDS superintendent.

Move easily damaged items such as televisions away from windows or cover with plastic. Residents

should fill any containers they can use for water storage and make a final check of food and other supplies. If residents live in a low-lying area, they should make arrangements to move to a safer area.

TCCOR 1 CAUTION (C): Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 12 hours. Actual winds are 35+ knots. All nonessential personnel are released to their homes. DoDDS schools close, and staff and teachers remain at home. Base Exchanges, shops, commissaries, Expresses, gas stations, services facilities, clubs, restaurants, recreational facilities and post offices close. All non-essential personnel should remain indoors.

TCCOR 1 EMERGENCY (E): Actual winds of 50 knots or greater are occurring. All outside activity is strictly prohibited.

TCCOR 1 RECOVERY (R): Destructive winds of 50 knots are no longer occurring. However, winds of 34–49 knots are still present. Nonessential functions remain closed unless directed by authorities. All but emergency essential personnel remain in their homes and away from windows.

TCCOR 1 STORM WATCH (SW): While the typhoon is moving away, the island is still feeling its effects. Hazardous conditions may exist due to storm damage. There is still a possibility that the storm could return to Okinawa, so residents should stay alert to weather reports.

All military and civilian personnel must return to work within two hours or at normal duty hours unless otherwise instructed by their commander. Commissaries and Exchanges resume operations, unless directed otherwise by the installation commander.

ALL CLEAR: Hazardous conditions and winds are no longer present, and residents may return to normal duties. All Clear is announced when all hazards have been cleared. DoDDS teachers, staff and students will return to school during normal hours.

NOTE: The wind speeds shown for each Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness serve as a guide for decision making. The final decision on TCCOR declaration rests with the 18th Wing Commander based on wind speed, weather forecast, safety and operational and mission concerns. Source: *Air Force 18th Civil Engineer Group Office of Emergency Management, Kadena Air Base.*



WHAT TO HAVE ON HAND FOR A TYPHOON

- Four-day supply of food and water
- Bottled water, canned foods and other nonperishables
- Fill up bathtub or washing machine in order to flush toilets if water goes out
- Ample supply of food for pets
- Blankets, tarps, plastic, heavy cardboard and waterproof tape to cover broken windows
- Mops and towels to absorb leaks
- Flashlights with extra batteries, candles, matches and a waterproof lighter
- Battery-operated portable radio with extra batteries
- Portable stove during extended power outages; cooking the contents of the freezer may become necessary
- First aid kit
- Subscribe to receive AtHoc Installation Warning System notifications at mcipac.marines.mil/Resources/AtHoc



TSUNAMI

Although tsunamis are not regular occurrences, their potential for causing unimaginable damage cannot be ignored. Always have a plan in case of disaster. This plan should cover evacuation routes and safe areas (both day and night), locating family members, and having a disaster preparedness kit. Tsunami notifications are as follows:

INFORMATION STATEMENT

An earthquake occurred or a tsunami watch, advisory or warning was issued for another section of the ocean. In most cases, information statements are issued to indicate there is no threat of a destructive tsunami and to prevent unnecessary evacuations as the earthquake may have been felt in coastal areas. An information statement may, in appropriate situations, caution about the possibility of destructive local tsunamis. Information statements may be re-issued with additional information, though normally these messages are not updated. However, a watch, advisory, or warning may be issued for the area, if necessary, after analysis and/or updated information becomes available.

TSUNAMI WARNING

A potential tsunami with significant widespread inundation is imminent or expected. Warnings alert the public that widespread, dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents is possible and may continue for several hours after arrival of the initial wave. Warnings also alert emergency management officials to take action for the entire tsunami hazard zone. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Warnings may be updated, adjusted geographically, downgraded or canceled. To provide the earliest possible alert, initial warnings are normally based only on seismic information.

TSUNAMI WATCH

A tsunami was or may have been generated but is at least two hours travel time to the area in watch status. The watch area may be upgraded to an advisory or warning or canceled based on updated information and analysis. Therefore, emergency management officials and the public should prepare to take action. Watches are normally issued based on seismic information without confirmation that a destructive tsunami is underway.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Prepare yourself now for disasters and take actions ahead of time to keep your family safe. Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Disasters can develop slowly like typhoons, or they can occur very quickly like earthquakes, tsunami and floods so it is important that you are always prepared. A comprehensive overview of emergency preparedness to include Emergency Evacuation, Hazards, Family planning, and the 'Alerts' Marine Corps Emergency Mass Notification System is available at www.ready.marines.mil. Additional English language tools such as the NERV Disaster App, the Safety Tips App and the Japan Shelter App also provide timely alerts and hazard information that can be lifesaving during severe weather.



SEA CONDITIONS

For the latest sea conditions, visit Kadena Weather (kadena.af.mil/agencies/local-weather). Sea conditions are also available on AFN Okinawa's Facebook page. The conditions are as follows: Sea Condition All Clear (AC), Sea Condition Caution (C) and Sea Condition Danger (D). The west (W) sector of the island includes the East China Sea shoreline from Hedo Point (northern tip) west down to Cape Kiyau (southern tip). The east (E) sector includes the Pacific Ocean shoreline from Hedo Point (northern tip) east down to Cape Kiyau (southern tip).

During SC-AC, conditions are ideal for water-related activities. Wind speeds have been reported at less than 18 mph (16 knots) and although some hazards may exist, locally assessed conditions are suitable for novice water enthusiasts intending to participate in the location's primary activities.

During SC-C, all personnel should exercise caution when entering the water. Wind speeds of 18 mph (16 knots) or greater (including gusts) have been observed in the sector for at least three hours. Locally assessed conditions require that individuals participating in water activities have extensive experience both in the planned activity and at the location of the activity.

During SC-D, life-threatening conditions exist, and water entry is prohibited for all activities. The criteria for SC-D are the observation of wind speeds of 35 mph (30

knots) or greater (including gusts) sustained for at least three hours, Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (TCCOR) 2 has been declared, or if locally assessed conditions are observed to be dangerous and warrant removing all personnel from the water and restricting further access. Military facilities will cease rental of water recreation equipment immediately upon declaration of SC-D but pool-based activities may continue at the discretion of the recreation director/commander.

Remember, these conditions and criteria are based on a generalized evaluation and may not be consistent with the weather and sea state at all the island's coastlines. Personnel must be equipped to make an individual assessment of the hazards before participating in their intended water activity.

Even when enjoying water sports on calm days, always check local beach conditions, especially for rip currents. Rip currents are a strong current of water running out to sea, formed by waves washing up onto the beach and working their way back out through channels beyond the break. Rips are dangerous because swimmers can tire from fighting against the current until they are unable to stay afloat.

Swimmers caught in a rip should stay calm, tread water or float. Once past the breakers, swimmers should make their way parallel to shore and catch waves coming in or signal for help and wait for a lifeguard.

MARINE HAZARDS

STONEFISH (1)

Stonefish are bottom dwellers with dorsal spines that release a poisonous toxin when pressed, inflicting excruciating pain and possible death to those who step on them. They blend into their surroundings and are often difficult to spot.

LIONFISH (2)

Found swimming near reefs and oftentimes close to shore, lionfish have venomous fin rays that can produce painful puncture wounds. Stings can cause breathing difficulties, nausea, convulsions and paralysis. Severe allergic reactions can even be fatal.

SEA URCHIN (3)

Round in shape with spiny exteriors, sea urchins can be quite painful when stepped on or leaned against.

And, some types of spines can break off inside your skin, be difficult to remove and lead to infection. Watch your hand placement and wear protective footwear.

SEA SNAKE (4)

Sea snakes are naturally curious and may try to swim close to you for a better look. However, never try to handle them, and give them as much space as possible—they pack powerful venom.

SHARK (5)

Many sharks are attracted to thrashing movements and the smell of fish blood. Most attacks involve swimmers and occur fairly close to shore. Divers that encounter sharks should stay calm and remain as still as possible near the sea floor.

PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR (6)

These colonial organisms consist of a blue bottle-shaped sail that protrudes from the surface, and extremely long, stinging tentacles that can extend up to 30 feet.

BARRACUDA (7)

Barracudas usually attack only when provoked. Most encounters can be avoided by giving them a wide berth. However, these lightning-fast predators are attracted by lights and flashing glittery objects so divers should leave shiny swimwear and jewelry at home.

SEA ANEMONE (8)

Although sea anemones are often beautiful, they can inflict painful stings and are best admired from afar.



BLACK:
SEVERE STING
AND/OR BITE
HAZARDS.



MORAY EEL (9)

These eels can grow to lengths of 5 feet and don't usually bite unless taunted, provoked or startled. Divers should never stick their extremities anywhere they cannot ensure is safe. If you ever encounter one of these beautiful animals, keep your distance.

CROWN-OF-THORNS (10)

This animal looks like a large starfish covered with spines. Not only is it known for destroying acres of coral, contact with one is painful and causes swelling that can last for several weeks.

BOX JELLYFISH (11)

These are among the most venomous of sea creatures and can be found along Okinawa's shores from May to October. Although their tentacles are relatively short (up to 4.5 feet) compared to the Portuguese Man-of-War, in severe cases its sting can

cause death in about 15 minutes.

Box Jellyfish are nearly invisible, which makes them even more dangerous. Although beach lifeguards are vigilant, it is always a good idea to keep an eye out, especially after rough sea conditions—the tentacles of a dead jellyfish washed up on the beach can still sting. Wearing protective clothing can prevent stings in the water.

HYDROIDS (12)

These small stinging animals can range in appearance from miniature sea anemones on a stick to fuzzy underwater ferns. Hydroids are stationary, encrusting themselves on rocks and other hard surfaces.

CONE SHELL (13)

This hunter/killer sea snail injects venom with a harpoon-like apparatus at its tip. Treat this ocean dweller with extreme care. If you must pick one up, use tongs.

FIRE CORAL (14)

This hard coral, which can range from brownish red to yellow in color, has lighter tips equipped with fine stinging hairs. Brushing up against one can cause a burning sensation, followed by painful itching, swelling and possibly hives.

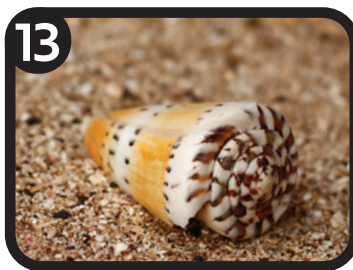
BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS (15)

As the name suggests, this very small, seemingly adorable cephalopod displays blue rings when agitated. They are known to have an extremely poisonous and sometimes deadly bite.

JELLYFISH (16)

Most jellyfish consist of a gelatinous, bell-shaped body with tentacles of various lengths dangling down and can come in many shapes and sizes. Although most of these creatures are quite harmless, a few species can be deadly so it's better to be safe than sorry and avoid them all.

**RED:
POTENTIALLY
LETHAL MARINE
HAZARDS.**



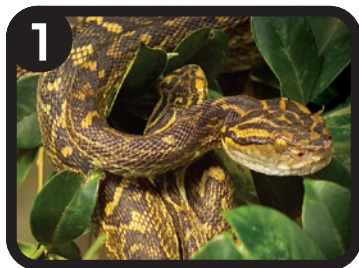
LAND HAZARDS

HABU (1)

Of the 22 species of snakes on Okinawa, only four are venomous and dangerous: the *habu*, *himehabu*, *sakishimahabu* and Taiwan habu. A single bite from one of these snakes can cause a deadly reaction; victims should seek medical attention immediately.

MOSQUITO (2)

Mosquitoes are known to congregate around stagnant water and areas where humans live. While most bites will cause little more than an annoying itch, female mosquitoes may transmit a virus called Japanese encephalitis. Symptoms of Japanese encephalitis are similar to those of the flu: fever, chills, fatigue, headache, nausea and vomiting. If you develop these symptoms, seek medical attention. Contraction of the virus can be prevented by a simple vaccination available from your healthcare provider.



HAIRY CATERPILLAR (3)

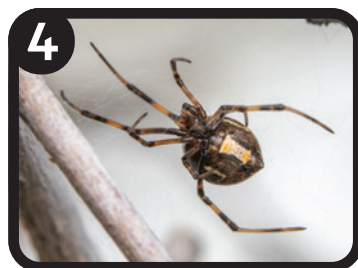
Commonly found in woods, gardens and on plants, these caterpillars have hairs that can break off, irritate the skin and cause itching. If you get hairs on your skin remove with adhesive tape and clean the wound with alcohol. For more severe reactions, seek immediate medical treatment.

BROWN WIDOW SPIDER (4)

Such spiders can be found in tangled webs in gardens or webs in corners. Bites can vary from mild to severe. A bite with venom will cause severe muscle pain, abdominal cramping, difficulty breathing and nausea. If you are bitten, remove the webs, stay calm and catch the spider, if possible, for identification. Seek immediate treatment.

HORNETS AND PAPER WASPS (5)

While hornets have marbled nests found in trees or on the ground, paper wasp nests are found on houses, trees or in caves. Both have been known to swarm to defend their nests. Should you be attacked, run in a zig-zag pattern through trees or seek shelter. A



sting from one of these insects can cause pain, swelling or possibly severe reactions.

CHIGGERS & TICKS (6)

Both of these insects can be found in woods or high grass. Once they latch on to humans or animals, they inject saliva into the skin, causing itching and bumps. They can be deterred with insect repellent. For information on treating a pet with ticks, contact your veterinarian.

GIANT CENTIPEDE (7)

These are usually found outside in damp, dark places, woods or gardens, but can sometimes be found inside houses in bathrooms, closets, under beds and inside shoes. Centipedes use their jaws to inject venom and their bites leave paired puncture wounds. Seek medical treatment for severe reactions.

