

DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

As stated in the accompanying paper on "Procedures for the evaluation predictions", and given today's technical capacity for intensive seismic monitoring in Japan, our practical target is limited to the prediction of major earthquakes in the Tokai region. The purpose of this paper is to illustrate the planned response to abnormal activity in this region.

2. RESPONSE TO ABNORMAL ACTIVITY

If abnormal data are found by the observation networks and these exceed a pre-set threshold, the Director-General of the Japan Meteorological Agency is notified immediately. The Director-General must decide whether these abnormal data are precursors of the threatened "Tokai Earthquake" or not. The making of this decision needs high-level technical advice which the Director-General will request from his private consulting body, namely the Earthquake Assessment Committee consisting of 6 prominent seismologists. If the committee's diagnosis is affirmative, the information should be used to prevent or mitigate the impending earthquake disaster.

To enable the above plan to be implemented, a law called the "Large-scale Earthquake Countermeasures Act" was passed in 1978. In accordance with this law, the mechanism of the "Tokai Earthquake" was studied, and the areas where the expected seismic intensities are 6 or more in JMA scale, have been designated as "areas under intensified surveillance". The seismic intensities of the surrounding area, including Tokyo, will be 5. The effects of seismic intensities 5 and 6 are explained in figure 1. The areas under intensified measures are