

Minister of Education Calls on Schools and Kindergartens at All Levels to Strengthen Flood Prevention Work

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Taiwan's annual flood prevention and control period starts from May 1 to November 30, as the plum rain season and typhoon season brings abundant rain to Taiwan. Plum rain is mainly from the cloud and rain system above the Yangtze River basin, while a typhoon is formed because of the low pressure over the Pacific Ocean, both of which will bring continuous heavy rain and may cause flooding.

Therefore, Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, was concerned about the flood prevention and control work and inspected the preparation work for flood prevention at the Keelung Shiding Elementary School; in addition to recognizing the school's efforts in the flood prevention work, he reiterated the importance of "staying away from disasters is better than preventing one; disaster prevention is more important than disaster relief." As for the disaster prevention work for typhoons, he reminded schools and kindergartens at all levels to strictly

control and monitor the situation in surrounding area, to prevent potential floods, landslides, or other disasters that may be caused by storms and rains, while listing the following preparation measures and responses that each school should strengthen during the flood prevention and control period:

1. Schools should pay close attention to special warnings and reports of torrential rains and landslides issued by the Central Weather Bureau or Soil and Water Conservation Bureau of the Council of Agriculture of the Executive Yuan. Please be sure to do preparatory work, including a financial evacuation pack and personnel evacuation, based on the actual needs and strengthen the disaster prevention exercises and self-rescue measures. If there is a need for evacuation, it should be implemented promptly according to a safe plan developed in advance.
2. Schools in a flood-prone area should prevent the potential flooding of the electrical distribution equipment in the basement. Do not place relevant equipment, devices, and items on lower floors and other flood-prone locations, and teaching equipment and items, such as textbooks and computer equipment, should be placed in a space on the second floor or above of a building after a careful assessment and readjustment to avoid unnecessary damage.
3. For schools located in a low-lying area or an area adjacent to the sea, a river, or a ditch, the entrance to their flood-prone classrooms or basements should be installed with a barrier, and sandbags should be prepared in advance to prevent flooding.
4. The drainage ditches inside and outside schools should be inspected carefully and dredged, so as to prevent the water from flowing backward due to a blockage in a ditch in the case of a typhoon or heavy rain. Where there is pumping equipment, please be sure to check it on a regular basis to see if it is in good condition. If it needs to be repaired, please call professional personnel to repair it as soon as possible.
5. Before, during, and after a typhoon and heavy rain alert, please find out whether there are any faculty members living in mountainous areas or doing outdoor activities areas in a dangerous area. If so, please file a report to the Campus Security Report Center of the Ministry of Education in order to initiate disaster evacuation measures; teams that have not been sent out are subject to control and regulation.

The Ministry of Education calls on schools and kindergartens at all levels to carefully assess the situation of potential disasters in their own areas, implement flood preparation and prevention measures, and test emergency communication equipment and networks between teachers and students, while calling on students not to travel to areas near the sea or water when a typhoon approaches. Schools should pay special attention to students' safety when they travel to and from school. In the event of a disaster, schools and kindergartens at all levels should actively coordinate and cope with the disaster relief and recovery work, on the condition that all personnel's safety is ensured, to have the first-hand information of the situation of the schoolyard and teachers and students' safety, while filing a timely request for disaster relief and report to the local disaster relief unit, disaster response center, and the Campus Security Report Center, so as to mitigate the damage and ensure the safety of campus as well as teachers and students.