

Aftershocks rattle Japan as deaths from quakes rise to 45

April 19 2016, by By Mari Yamaguchi



Rescuers search for missing persons at the site of a landslide in Minamiaso, Kumamoto prefecture, Japan Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Minamiaso, a town of 12,000 on the southern island of Kyushu, was partly cut off by landslides and road and bridge damage after earthquakes. (Yohei Fukai/Kyodo News via AP)

Japan's southern quake-hit area was rattled by a strong aftershock Tuesday and searchers found a woman's body buried under landslide rubble, raising the death toll from the twin earthquakes to 45.

More than 100,000 evacuees, some sleeping in their cars and others in gymnasiums or community centers, were bracing for another chilly night. Many people are afraid to stay in their homes as aftershocks continued to shake the area on the southern island of Kyushu, including a 5.5-magnitude temblor Tuesday afternoon.

Authorities were advising people staying in cars and shelters to move about to avoid developing deep-vein thrombosis, or blood clots that develop after being immobile for a long time. Japanese media reported that a 51-year-old woman from Kumamoto had died Monday from the condition.

At least 23 people have developed symptoms, Kyodo News service said. Saiseikai Kumamoto Hospital said Tuesday it had diagnosed 10 cases, including two people in critical condition.

The area around Kumamoto was hit by two quakes within 28 hours of each other late Thursday and early Saturday, triggering landslides that have blocked roads. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said nearly 1,200 houses had been destroyed.



People line up for rations in Kumamoto, Japan Tuesday, April 19, 2016. About 100,000 evacuees from a pair of powerful earthquakes in Japan have been enduring chilly weather, some sleeping outdoors or in their cars. (Naohiko Hatta/Kyodo News via AP)

Nine people died in the first, magnitude 6.4 earthquake, and at least 36 died in the second one, which registered 7.3. About 1,100 have been injured.

The hardest-hit towns are Mashiki, where 20 residents died, and Minamiaso, a remote mountain area where 11 died and the [death toll](#) is creeping up as soldiers and emergency workers use backhoes and shovels to search for missing people.

Temperatures around Kumamoto city are forecast to fall to 8 degrees Celsius (46 F) overnight.



People receive relief goods in Aso, Kumamoto prefecture, Japan Tuesday, April 19, 2016. About 100,000 evacuees from a pair of powerful earthquakes in Japan have been enduring chilly weather, some sleeping outdoors or in their cars. (Yuki Sato/Kyodo News via AP)

The earthquake damage and loss of power and water is reverberating beyond Kyushu as Toyota Motor Corp. and other manufacturers have suspended production.

Several soldiers carried a woman's body down on a plastic tray covered with an olive-green tarp Tuesday morning as dozens of workers dug through where a mudslide slammed into buildings in Saturday's [quake](#).

Food shortages and cuts to water service are plaguing the relief effort.



A girl helps her mother, background, to collect water at Aso Shrine in Aso, Kumamoto prefecture, Japan Tuesday, April 19, 2016. About 100,000 evacuees from a pair of powerful earthquakes in Japan have been enduring chilly weather, some sleeping outdoors or in their cars. (Yuki Sato/Kyodo News via AP)

American military airlifts are helping to deliver water, bread, ready-to-eat food and other emergency supplies to remote areas. The U.S. has about 50,000 troops stationed in Japan, and the American military played a large role in rescue and relief in 2011 after a massive earthquake and tsunami hit the northeastern coast of the main island of Honshu.

Limited flights resumed to Kumamoto Airport on Tuesday, but outbound passenger flights remain almost entirely suspended because of severe damage to the terminal building.



Members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces work to retrieve the body of a missing person found at the site of a landslide in Minamiaso, Kumamoto prefecture, Japan Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Minamiaso, a town of 12,000 on the southern island of Kyushu, was partly cut off by landslides and road and bridge damage after earthquakes. (Yohei Fukai/Kyodo News via AP)



A family eats rations inside their vehicle at a shelter in Mashiki, Kumamoto prefecture, Japan Tuesday, April 19, 2016. About 100,000 evacuees, some sleeping outdoors or in their cars, endured chilly weather Tuesday and another large aftershock. (Naoya Osato/Kyodo News via AP)



People line up at a laundromat in Kumamoto, Japan Tuesday, April 19, 2016. About 100,000 evacuees, some sleeping outdoors or in their cars, endured chilly weather Tuesday and another large aftershock. (Naoya Osato/Kyodo News via AP)

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Aftershocks rattle Japan as deaths from quakes rise to 45 (2016, April 19) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-aftershocks-rattle-japan-deaths-quakes.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.