

Current status and issues of tertiary transport in the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake

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On January 1st, 2024, an earthquake with a maximum seismic intensity of 7 struck the Noto Peninsula region, Ishikawa Pref., causing extensive damage, including the collapse of houses and the severance of roads. While relief supplies were sent to the affected areas immediately after the disaster, road closures and a lack of communication within the affected areas prevented supplies from reaching them, leaving evacuees without sufficient food and water. Meanwhile, in some cases, relief providers sent supplies without understanding local demand, leading to confusion in sorting and storage. This type of initial disruption of disaster in the transportation of supplies was also noted following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 and the Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016, leading to the introduction of new systems such as push-mode relief. However, in the Noto Peninsula earthquake, many issues existed on tertiary transport operations, which deliver supplies to evacuation centers and communities after they reached collection points in the affected cities and towns.

This study targeted Noto Town, Ishikawa Prefecture, where a maximum seismic intensity of 6+ was observed and extensive damage was sustained, with the aim of clarifying the current state of tertiary transport during disasters. Through interviews with government officials, supply transport personnel, and evacuation center operators, as well as analysis of materials released by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Investigation Committee and the national and prefectural governments, we clarified the supply transport routes, supply system, and issues, and clarified the problems that arose during the process of relief supplies reaching the end users. Furthermore, based on the knowledge gained through the survey, we will propose measures to improve tertiary transport during future large-scale earthquakes, and the ideal form of collaboration between government, the private sector, and local residents.

Keywords: 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake, tertiary transport, Noto Town, Ishikawa Prefecture, private delivery company