



Fukushima Medical University's response to the March 11 earthquake and subsequent disasters.

Fukushima Medical University (FMU) and its affiliated hospital are responding to the March 11 earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent disasters. The University Hospital was operating as usual when strong tremors reached the FMU campus. Activities not directly related to patient care were briefly suspended, but resumed promptly as facilities were inspected and deemed to be safe and operational.

The University Hospital is giving priority to severely injured patients and those directly affected by the earthquake and its aftermath. Non-urgent patients, including those with prior outpatient appointments, are being asked to seek care from other facilities as needed.

Medical triage information for 152 patients seen through March 13 is as follows:

- 86 minor injuries (category Green, walking wounded)
- 37 moderate injuries (category Yellow, not immediately life-threatening)
- 28 serious injuries (category Red, life-threatening)
- 1 mortality (category Black)

FMU's "Doctor Heli" air ambulance has been joined by additional helicopter crews operating from the university's soccer field. Furthermore, we have the support of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) from around Japan. Airborne retrieval efforts are currently serving patients from Fukushima and Miyagi Prefectures, and DMAT teams have been directed to Iwate Prefecture by land. Upper division Fukushima Medical University students are also among the disaster relief volunteers.

All the people involved in this disaster response have themselves been affected in some way by the March 11 earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent events. Aftershocks continue to ripple through Fukushima, but a spirit of service persists to meet the needs of those in far more difficult circumstances.