

INFLUENCE OF RESIDENTS' COGNITION OF THEIR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT ON EVACUATION BEHAVIOR FROM TSUNAMI

A case study of Onjuku, Chiba Prefecture

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This paper focuses on the effects of residents' cognition of their local environment on evacuation behavior in the event of tsunami. We conducted questionnaire surveys and a sketch map survey in the coastal area of Onjuku, Chiba Prefecture. The results revealed the following: 1) decision-making was based on cognition of terrain, although it was not always correct, 2) choice of evacuation site was related to cognition of the elements, and 3) some improper route choice were related to "distorted" cognitive map. These results suggest that understanding residents' cognition is important to develop effective mitigation measures against a tsunami.