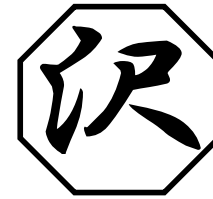




YONEZAWAJIN



No.21 December 2008 (English Edition)

Snow Season in Yonezawa

The snow season in Yonezawa has begun. Let's be prepared so that we can overcome the snow and live comfortably during the winter months.



Follow these steps to prevent accidents and disasters caused by snow:

- Prevent explosions by putting a snow fence around gas canisters and hoses.
- Prevent kerosene leakage by putting a snow fence around outdoor kerosene storage tanks.
- Be careful around snow removal channels so you won't fall into one.
- Prevent overflowing by following the right manners for dumping snow into the snow removal channels.
- Prevent falling by securing ladders.
- Prevent buildings from collapsing by removing snow from roofs as soon as possible.
- Don't dump snow from the roofs on to school routes and sidewalks.
- Secure an emergency exit route in case of a fire.

Check Your Water Pipes!

Water pipes can freeze easily between late December and February when the temperature drops below minus 4~5 degrees Centigrade. You will especially need to be careful if you will be away from home for a long period of time or if you have a room that you are not using. Please check your pipes as soon as possible.



DID YOU KNOW???

Yonezawa Carp

The C in the Yonezawa food ABCs stands for carp. Yonezawa Carp is said to have started when Lord Uesugi Yozan ordered young carp to be brought over from the Soma area (present day Fukushima Prefecture) in 1802 and raised them in the moat of the Yonezawa castle so it could be a source of protein for the people in Yonezawa during the winter. Because they are raised in the clear headwaters of the Mogami River, they have a refined taste unlike most fresh water fish. There are many different types of carp dishes including raw carp (arai), and deep fried carp but the most famous dish is amani, carp stewed in sake, soy sauce, and sugar. Carp dishes are still an indispensable traditional local food during New Years and other celebrations in Yonezawa today. Because carp is rich in nutrients, they are also frequently eaten by expectant mothers.



Snow Removal Work

This winter, 714 roads and 64 side walking routes will be cleared in the city. Snow removal work is expected to finish by 7am each morning, but depending on the condition of the snow, it may not be possible to finish on time. To make snow removal work proceed smoothly, please cooperate by following the following:



- Don't park your car on the street or leave your bicycle or motorcycle on the street.
- Don't dump snow from your roof or from your home onto the street.
- Make sure branches from trees in your garden or snow fences are not sticking out into the streets.
- Mark items that might be broken outside your house with a marker such as a long pole.

Promote Winter Traffic Safety

Driving and walking outside during the winter can be quite dangerous due to snow and icy roads and low visibility due to bad weather.



There is also the worry about drunk driving accidents as there are many opportunities to drink at various year-end parties. Please practice traffic safety with your family and in your community in order to prevent traffic accidents and save precious lives.

5 Rules for Driving in Winter

1. Drive 10km/hr less than your usual speed.
2. Double the usual distance between the car in front of you and your vehicle.
3. Don't suddenly speed, stop, or turn your vehicle.
4. When visibility is low, look carefully ahead and slow down as soon as possible.
5. Don't try to pass any vehicles.



Is this your first time spending the winter in snow country? If you have further questions or you are worried, please feel free to contact City Hall any time. **TEL 22-5111**

Have a Family Doctor

Family doctors are doctors who can give general health examinations and manage your health. If you have a light illness, you should try to visit a family doctor that you are close to and that know you well instead of visiting a specialist at a general hospital. Depending on the condition, you will be introduced to a medical specialist so there is no need to worry.

By having a family doctor whom you can talk openly about any health condition or illness you have, you will be able to receive correct advice based on your body and recent condition.

If you become ill, you should visit a family doctor during their consultation hours before the condition becomes worse.

Even if you visit a Weeknight/Holiday Clinic after a sudden illness, it is recommended that you visit your family doctor afterwards as well.



Other Events & Information



YIRA Café

If you are interested in international exchange or want to chat with people in different languages including Japanese, English, Chinese or Korean, bring your friends along and come join us for a cup of tea!

When: 12/5 (Fri), 12/15 (Mon) 14:30~16:30

Where: City Hall 7F Room 701 Cost: Free

Inquiries: Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) TEL 22-5111

Machi No Hiroba Winter Illumination

Date: 12/1 (Mon) ~ 2/28 (Sat) Time: 17:00~24:00

Place: Machi No Hiroba

What: Over 20,000 lights will illuminate the trees in Machi No Hiroba.

Inquiries: City Commerce & Tourist Division TEL 21-5111

Yamagata University Engineering Campus Illumination

Period: Early Dec ~ End of Feb 2009 Time: 16:00~24:00

Place: Yamagata University Engineering Dept. Campus

What: Over 29,000 orange, blue, and white lights will illuminate the buildings and trees of the University campus in Yonezawa.

Okitama Everyone's Christmas

Date: 12/21 (Sun) Time: 14:00~

Place: Denkoku No Mori Okitama Bunka Hall

Cost: Free

Inquiries: Keisen Christian Church TEL 090-5832-2359

YIRA (Yonezawa City International Relations Association) Event

Experience Japanese Culture!

Learn How to Make Osechi-Ryori

(Traditional Japanese New Year's Meal)

Date: 12/13 (Sat) 10:30~14:00

Where: Okitama Sogo Bunka Center

Who: Foreign residents and their families

Cost: Members 500 yen, Non-Members 1,000 yen



YIRA Bowling & Party

Come join our annual bowling party!

After the bowling there will be an exchange party with food, drinks, and prizes!

Date: 12/20 (Sat) Time: 6pm~9pm

Place: Yonezawa Central Bowl, Hotel Sun Route Yonezawa

Cost: Members 2,000 yen / Non-Members 2,500 yen

Teams: 3 members to a team (You may apply individually or in a group)

Limit: 70 people (Sign ups for close once it reaches the limit)

Upcoming Events:

YIRA New Years Festival 1/10 (Sat)

Come try out different cultural experiences including mochi-making and flower arranging!

Inquiries: YIRA Office TEL 22-5111

Yoji-Jukugo of the Month

ronyakunannyo

老若男女

"Old, Young, Men, Women"

Meaning: Men and women of all ages.

If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:

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