



Nagata Ward, Kobe, is left in ruins after the quake KYODO

bris of her house, after a two-hour operation to extract her, at around 9:20 a.m.

Doctors said the woman, identified as Chiyoko Amakawa, had bruises covering most of her body but no broken bones.

Amakawa, who has diabetes and is barely able to walk, credited her rescue to her dog "Pochi," a stray she once rescued at a park.

"It was pitch dark and my left leg hurt so much I was thirsty, and I called to Pochi and told him I was in pain and needed help," Amakawa said. "I just wondered over and over again when I was going to die."

It was Pochi's barking that alerted rescuers to Amakawa, police said.

In neighboring Nishinomiya, Tokiko Orii, 80, and Yoshimi Nomura, 80, were saved from the rubble of their homes.

The two women were found when Orii responded to calls from Self-Defense Force personnel searching the debris.

Nomura suffered serious injuries. Although Orii was very weak, she had only minor injuries to her legs and hands and was not seriously hurt, police said.

Junji Tanaka, 62, was rescued from beneath a destroyed building in Nishinomiya. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

DAY 4 (Jan. 20)

9:30 a.m.—Hyogo Prefecture announces that 283,000 people have evacuated to temporary shelters.

10:07 a.m.—Shinkansen train services

resumes between Kyoto and Shin-Osaka.

11:30 a.m.—950,000 households in Hyogo are reported to be lacking water supply and 850,000 are without gas.

6 p.m.—The Meteorological Agency revises upward the intensity of the quake for part of Kobe and northern Awaji Island to 7, the maximum on the Japanese scale. It is the first time that a quake is graded as a 7 since the seventh scale was added in 1949.

7:20 p.m.—A huge landslide in Higashi-Nada Ward forces the evacuation of 600 residents.

Relief comes slowly for 275,000 people living in temporary shelters

By MASARU FUJIMOTO

They sit helplessly, their eyes empty.

Most of the nearly 275,000 evacuees scattered among 980 temporary shelters in Kobe have little courage or even hope after their lives were shattered by the worst quake in living memory.

Tens of thousands of houses, as well as offices, schools, hospitals, utilities and public transportation systems in the Hanshin area have been destroyed.

Many evacuees lost loved ones, homes and all their material possessions, along with the familiar cityscape that was a point of pride for Kobe.

Most now have only a bag of clothes and a blanket provided by relief organizations.

"I can't imagine what I will do now," said a middle-aged woman, one of about 100 people taking shelter in a lobby at Kobe City Hall.

The people here are shattered.

They cannot even think about tomorrow—another day without a stable supply of water, power and gas. They are almost completely dependent on the good will of others.

Convoys of trucks loaded with food, water and other relief goods are slowly coming into the city from

Osaka on National Routes 2 and 43, which run parallel to the coast.

Yet emergency provisions have been insufficient to fill many stomachs. There is simply not enough food, and the provisions are not equally distributed to the shelters because of a lack of manpower and coordination.

Although far from adequate, the two national highways are now the only arteries linking the city with Osaka—which dodged major damage—since the Hanshin Expressway has closed after sections of it came crashing down.

At some shelters, provisions were so scarce on the second and third day of the disaster that there was only one box lunch for every three evacuees, they said.

But city officials said that the food problem is improving gradually, owing much to the help of concerned citizens and local governments across the country.

One reason for the delay in emergency provisions has been traffic jams. Vehicles transporting emergency goods were stuck in tieups as people drove their cars to the quake-stricken city to pick up relatives.

During the first three days after the quake, it took up to 12 hours to travel from Osaka to Kobe. The National Police Agency has banned all private vehicles from the highways to clear the roads for emergency vehicles.

The quake was the first to destroy such a large urban area in Japan since the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923. Except for tsunami, it triggered every possible calamity that a severe jolt could bring—structural collapse, landslides and fires.



A family mourns KIMIO IDA