

DAY 7 (Jan. 23)

About 180 of the 440 elementary, junior and senior high schools in the area reopen.

2 p.m. — Murayama, in the Diet, says he is confident that the government took the best relief measures that it could.

2:05 p.m. — The Construction Ministry reports that the gravity measurement registered in Kobe surpassed that of the Great Kanto Earthquake, with the measurement in Kobe's Chuo Ward more than twice as high as the 1923 quake.

6:45 p.m. — The NPA reports the death toll at 5,002, topping the 5,000 mark.

Mounting piles of trash is the new problem plaguing Kobe

By KENZO MORIGUCHI

Since the massive quake devastated Kobe Jan. 17, citizens here have been suffering from a lack of almost everything. But there is one thing they do have enough of — garbage.

Piles of blue plastic bags full of trash are mounting on roadsides in the city's Chuo Ward, along with the debris of damaged buildings and houses, broken furniture and broken glass.

The Ochiai Clean Center in Suma Ward was the only one out of five Kobe incineration facilities that resumed operation. The

others remain shut down, principally because water and gas supplies have been halted.

With three incinerators working, the center is capable of handling a maximum of 450 tons of trash a day.

The city normally operates 311 vehicles to collect about 2,200 tons a day in Kobe's nine wards, a city official said.

The official said garbage trucks had resumed operations in four of the less-damaged wards as early as two days after the disaster.

To help dispose of accumulated garbage, 128 workers and 46 trucks from eight municipal governments started operations here Tuesday, the official said.

Because people in the hardest-hit areas are too busy securing their basic needs, most complaints about trash collection are heard from those areas less affected or from the evacuation camps, he said.

DAY 8 (Jan. 24)

9 a.m. — the Ground Self-Defense Force opens a temporary bathing facility for evacuees, providing the victims their first bath since the quake.

Crowded facilities, create new health problems for medical teams in Kobe

By KENZO MORIGUCHI

Although the initial emergency from the Jan. 17 earthquake may have passed as food and other supplies flood into Kobe, crowded conditions and limited sanitary services in shelters are creating new health problems.

Currently, 32 medical stations are operating in the city, 14 of them around the clock. But there are more than 500 emergency shelters, stretching the limit of medical personnel attempting to provide treatment.

So far, an estimated 59 medical teams including 156 doctors, 204 nurses and other officials, have come to the devastated city. But the figures change daily as some volunteer doctors and nurses come and go without notifying authorities.

Medical concerns have changed during the week since the quake.

"When I first came here, most patients were suffering from external wounds. But for the last few days, the main concerns of those coming to see me are things like flu, pneumonia and suppuration of those external wounds," said Yoshihiro Takashima of Osaka, who has been seeing patients in the Nagata Ward Office since the third day of the quake.

Takashima, whose house in Osaka was damaged by the quake, is one of 40 the doctors from the Association of Medical Doctors for Asia who came to the area. He said that many victims are also suffering mentally from the shock of the quake, and that many who had suffered other illnesses before the quake are also coming for treatment.

A man walks across a section of a road that collapsed above a subway station KIMIO IDA

