

No. 1 Tokyo quake worry: Loos

Lack of sanitation would put victims at risk of disease, warns government committee

TOKYO

WERE a major quake to hit Tokyo, one of the greatest worries would be toilets, a Japanese government panel has warned in a report.

Millions of commuters would have to try to get home on foot – and would quickly come up against a dire shortage of wash-rooms.

According to a Sankei newspaper report yesterday, many ar-

reas of Tokyo would run short of toilet paper within 24 hours of a powerful quake.

Lack of sanitation would put quake victims at risk of disease, the report warned.

The capital's transport network would likely grind to a halt after a strong quake and water supply would be disrupted, making many of the capital's public conveniences unusable, the Cabinet Office disaster-prevention panel said.

"The biggest problem faced

by survivors of the Kobe earthquake was not food or clothing, but a lack of toilets," the panel said, referring to the 1995 quake that killed over 6,400 people.

Those working and studying in the most crowded central areas of the capital would likely find less than half the required number of toilets available.

The panel urged employers to have makeshift toilets on hand.

Commuters should stay overnight at offices and schools after a quake so as to stagger their travel times – thereby avoiding the risk of the capital's streets becoming as crowded as a rush-hour commuter train.

One expert recommended in-

dividuals make their own basic preparations, the Sankei said.

"Even if you just have a plastic bag and a packet of tissues, that will make a big difference," the panel's chairman was quoted as saying.

Calculations were based on a 7.3-magnitude quake hitting Tokyo Bay – something that is seen by experts as a likely scenario.

– REUTERS

HELPDESK 我的字典

➤ **Makeshift:** 临时凑合的
líng shí còu hé de

➤ **Magnitude:**
数量级 shù liàng jí