



Nurses as members of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team during the Great East Japan Disaster of 2011.



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A Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) is a trained, mobile, self-contained medical team that can provide medical assistance in a devastated area within 48 to 72 hours of a disaster.

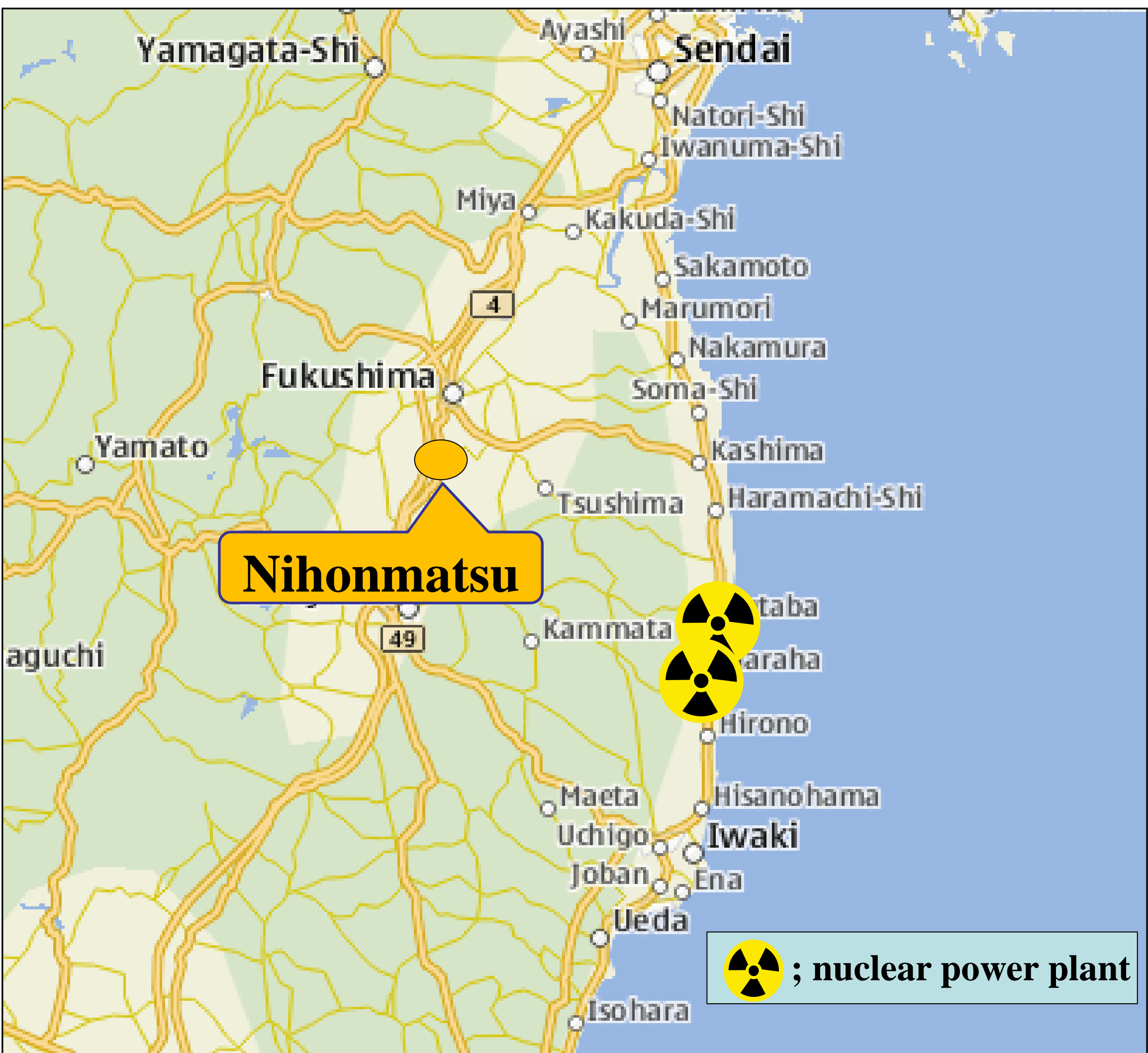
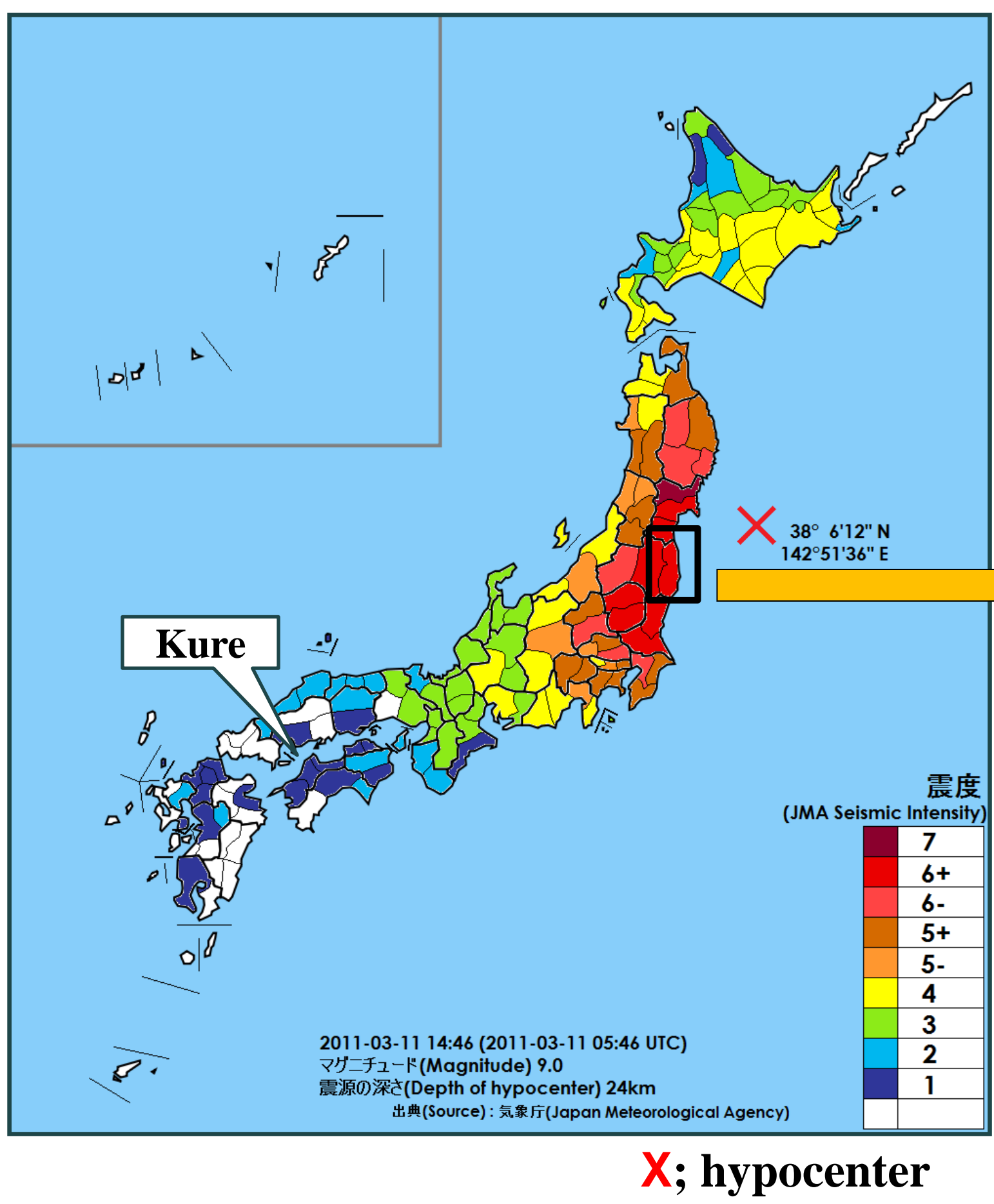
A DMAT consists of physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and a variety of other health and logistical personnel. Presented below is an account of the great East Japan Disaster 2011.

At 14:46, on 11 March 2011 a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit the northeast coast of Honshu, Japan. These disasters caused an accident at a nuclear power station in Fukushima prefecture.

The Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare called for DMATs all over Japan, and two DMATs of our hospital immediately took action.

The coordination of DMATs in Japan was managed by the headquarter (HQ) of DMATs in Fukushima prefecture. One of our missions on the first day was to take a survey of the radioactive contamination of evacuated citizens at some public spaces in Nihonmatsu city, 60km from the damaged nuclear power plant. Emergency transportation of seriously injured patients to the other medical institute was also included in our mission. On the second day, we supported the HQ.

DMAT nurses must be extraordinarily responsive to the conditions of people, circumstances and nature. They have to attend to the mental condition of survivors. Through this activity, we felt strongly the importance of staying with the survivors and their families. In addition to their customary duties, nurses in DMAT must meet the needs of disaster survivors.



One of DMATs from KMC CCC



Nurses from KMC CCC, Hiroshima Univ. Hospital and Hiroshima Pref. Hospital



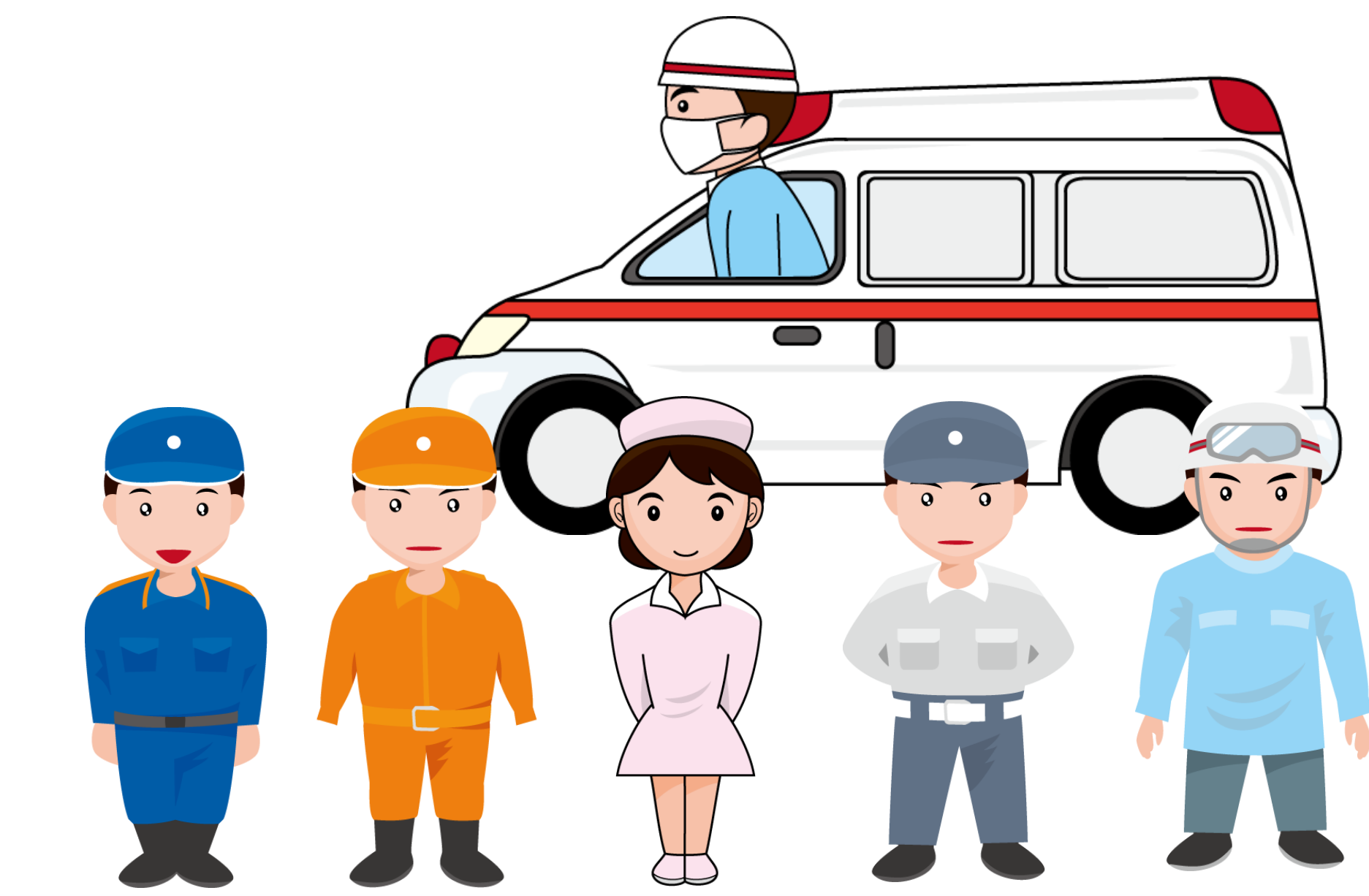
Meeting at DMAT HQ



Protective clothing for radiation tests



Radiation tests on citizen from evacuated area



Decontamination facility set up by Japan Self-Defense Forces



Managing of transportation for afflicted people