

Every month, KOTRA Express provides answers to some frequently asked questions submitted by foreign-invested companies in Korea and potential investors.

Safety guidelines for foreign residents in Korea

Q. What should we do when natural or man-made disasters occur in Korea?

A. The following guidelines are tips for staying safe in the occurrence of natural/social disasters, and for responding to problems faced in everyday life.

1. Natural Disasters

1) Typhoon

Q) What should we do after a typhoon?

- A) - When you get home after evacuation, do not enter your house until you can be sure everything is in good order and safe.
- Contact community service centers or government agencies nearby if you find any facilities damaged by the storm (buildings, water supply system, barricades, roads etc.).
 - Document any property damage with photographs.
 - Do not walk or drive around flood waters. Broken roads or bridges may injure you.
 - Stand away from river banks in case a river bursts and overflows onto the surrounding land.
 - When trapped by a flood, avoid wading in the flood water. Call 119 to ask for help.

Q) What should we do when vehicles are caught in a flood?

- A) Avoid driving through waterlogged roads or underpass. Leave immediately.
- If your car has been partially or fully submerged in floodwater, do not turn on the engine.

2) Heavy Rainfall

Q) What should we do after heavy rainfall?

- A) - Keep away from flood water. Dead animal bodies or spilled oil may have washed into your space especially when the water level starts to go down.
- Do not use tap water or drinking water filled in a container until you have checked for contamination.
 - Due to potential threats from food poisoning, do not eat food ingredients soaked up water.
 - Be sure to turn off electricity and gas appliances

at the main breaker. Call the Korea Gas Safety Corporation (KGS: 1544-4500) or the Korea Electricity Safety Corporation (KESC: 1588-7500) and never use the appliances until authorities say it is safe to do so.

- Do not use open flames in case there are gas leaks. Open the windows to help dry and ventilate the house.

- Raise up the crops drowned by floods. To pump out water from damaged farmland, wash out muddy debris and sewage stuck onto the plants and conduct a post-flood pest control to prevent insect infestation.

3) Heatwave

Q) How can we survive a heatwave without air-conditioning?

- A) Find shelter and stay out of the sun during peak hours, especially when you have to go out in the heat or are unable to keep cool at home. You can click on the official community webpage or get information on the nearest shelters through the 'Emergency Ready App'.

Q) When are heatwave alerts likely to be issued?

- A) The warning system consists of two levels: Level 1 and Level 2.

The minimum level alert (Level 1) is issued when the temperature high for the day exceeds 33 degrees Celsius and lasts over the next two days. If there is a high chance that a heatwave intensifies and the high exceeds 35 degrees Celsius for the next two days, a Level 2 alert is issued.

2. Social Disaster Management

1) Fire

Q) What are the steps for using a fire extinguisher?

- A) When using it indoors, stand against the door for safe evacuation.
1. Hold the extinguisher tight and pull the pin to break the tamper seal.
 2. Move and point the nozzle at the base of the fire.
 3. Squeeze the handle to release the agent.
 4. Sweep from side to side until the fire is out.

Q) What should we do when clothes catch on fire?

- A) To prevent smoke inhalation and facial burns,
1. You must stay still.
 2. Cover your face with both hands to avoid facial injury.
 3. Lie down on the ground.
 4. Roll onto the ground to suppress the flames.

2) Traffic Accident

Q) How can we escape from a sinking car?

- A) - Unbuckle your seatbelt. Take off your shoes and clothes to lighten your weight in the water for swimming.
- Grab anything that will help you float and swim through the broken window as fast as possible. Or, break the window open with a tool to shatter the glass.
 - If you've failed to escape, remain calm and wait for the water to fill the vehicle until the pressure is equalized, letting you open the door to exit.
 - Take several slow, deep breaths and hold on right before you get out of the car.

3) Fine Particulate Matter

Q) Where can we access information on air quality?

- A) AirKorea (an official webpage to provide real time access to national air quality information: www.airkorea.or.kr)
- Korea Meteorological Administration
 - Outdoor weather signs
 - Mobile app 'Local Air Quality Information' (Android OS, iOS)

Source: Safekorea.go.kr

Please visit www.safekorea.go.kr for more information.

Q) How can we protect ourselves from fine dust?

	Those vulnerable to effects of air pollution	Ordinary people
Moderate	Do not necessarily have to avoid outdoor activities, but stay cautious.	
Bad	Keep your activity levels slow. Asthmatic patients who stay outdoors are recommended to use asthma inhalers to help reduce exposure to allergens.	Keep your activity levels slow. Indoor activities are recommended especially when you feel uncomfortable with symptoms such as irritation of the eyes and throat or coughing.
Extremely bad	Avoid outdoor activities. Stay indoors and follow your doctor's directions.	Keep your activity levels slow. Indoor activities are recommended especially when you experience discomfort such as eyes or throat irritation or coughing.

3. Safety Precautions for Everyday Life

Q) What are the steps for treating food poisoning?

- A) 1. Visit the nearest hospital if you have any signs or symptoms of food poisoning such as vomiting and diarrhea. Follow hospital instructions.
2. To avoid dehydration, drink enough water to replace the minerals that you lose with diarrhea.
 3. Avoid acidic beverages such as juice or soft drinks until you feel better. Allow your stomach to settle.
 4. Ease back into eating. Gradually begin to eat when you feel ready, but start with bland, easy-to-digest foods.
 5. If anyone in your family or otherwise who has shared foods with you develop similar symptoms, contact the nearest community health center.