

## Build a Temporary Bridge over the Mizushiri River! Connecting logistics arteries



▲ The Ground Self-Defense Force Northeastern Army 2nd Engineer Brigade assembling huge structural materials

Photo courtesy of Ground Self-Defense Force Northeastern Army

The tsunami of the Great East Japan Earthquake destroyed bridge after bridge along the Minamisanriku coast. Mizushiri Bridge, which was located near the mouth of the Mizushiri River, also collapsed after the tsunami gouged out a large section of land on the right bank of the river, disrupting National Route 45, a major logistics artery for the town.

As a consequence, the only way that emergency vehicles could access the Shizugawa District was from the direction of Towa-cho in Tome.

The Self-Defense Forces completed the construction of a temporary bridge over the Mizushiri River a week after the earthquake, although at night, only emergency vehicles were allowed to cross. Later, toward the end of April 2011, alternating single lane traffic was able to cross, and on May 18th, a temporary two-lane bridge was constructed.

The construction of this bridge made possible travel between the Togura and Shizugawa Districts, in addition to enabling access to Minamisanriku from the direction of Ishinomaki.

With this, Minamisanriku's logistics lifeline was finally restored, and recovery efforts also experienced a boost in momentum.