

## Building Temporary Housing in 58 Places in and around Minamisanriku



▲ Construction of temporary housing commencing in the school grounds of Shizugawa Junior High School

In the initial period after the earthquake, about 10,000 of Minamisanriku's residents were living in evacuation centers. Private apartments in Minamisanriku and surrounding areas were regarded as temporary housing. Residents moved in, and construction of temporary housing began immediately. However, the only flat land on which temporary housing complexes could be built was school grounds and municipal playgrounds, making it extremely difficult to find land. As a result, Minamisanriku negotiated to also build a temporary housing complex in neighboring Tome City. In June 2011, construction was completed for the largest temporary housing complex, which comprised 351 housing units, in Minamikata, south of Tome. In Minamisanriku itself, there was no choice but to build on small

plots of land. The Self-Defense Forces were requested to prepare the ground on land that was confirmed to be usable.

Aiming to complete the project in mid-August 2011, construction of prefabricated temporary housing went ahead for a total of 58 housing complexes, comprising a total of 2,195 housing units, in Minamisanriku and Tome. At the peak time, which was February 2012, 5,841 people from 1,941 households were living in temporary housing. Because the 58 complexes were dispersed geographically, the provision of support to the residents became a major challenge.



▲ Temporary housing complex under construction in the school grounds of Shizugawa Junior High School

Photo courtesy of Miura Syuichi