

Severe weather conditions

Mt. Fuji is the highest peak in Japan. Weather conditions are severe year round but especially in the off-season outside the summer months, when temperatures at the summit often dip below freezing.

●Spring (end Apr.–end June)

Temperatures tend to drop suddenly, freezing the snowy surface and increasing the risk of fatal slips as much as in the winter. Loose stones often fall due to sliding and melting blocks of snow.

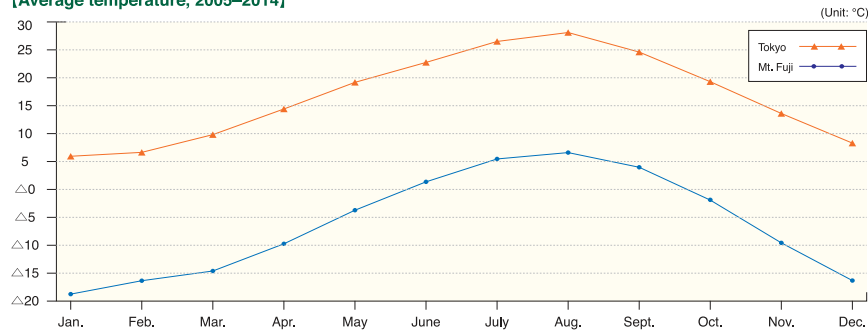
●Autumn (mid Sept.–late Nov.)

Be prepared for bad weather such as violent storms and typhoons, and snowstorms due to sudden drops in temperature.

●Winter (late Nov.–end Apr.)

Weather conditions are severest. Temperatures below -20 °C and wind speeds exceeding 30 m/s are not the exception but the rule.

Average temperature, 2005–2014

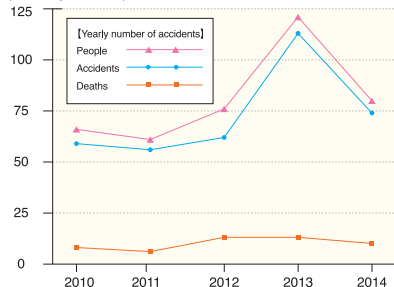


Frequent climbing accidents

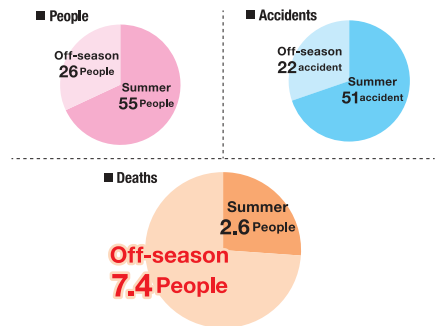
Slipping causes numerous accidents involving missing climbers and deaths each year. The primary victims are climbers who are dressed and equipped lightly because they neglect the weather forecast or fail to take the climb seriously, and climbers who push themselves despite poor physical condition or the weather changing for the worse.

[Number of accidents, 2010–2014]

(Unit: People/accident)



[Average number of accidents, 2010–2014]



Council for the Promotion of the Proper Use of Mt. Fuji

The Council for the Promotion of the Proper Use of Mt. Fuji is formed by the Ministry of the Environment, Yamanashi Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture, local municipalities, and related parties such as tour operators. The council's primary objectives are to promote the safety and comfort of climbers of Mt. Fuji, foster awareness of the mountain's natural environment, conserve this natural environment, and preserve and enhance its scenic beauty. Activities include providing information to climbers of Mt. Fuji, overseeing the design and arrangement of signs on Mt. Fuji, and promoting awareness of the Guidelines for Safely Climbing Mt. Fuji.

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■ Official Website for Mt. Fuji Climbing
<http://www.fujisan-climb.jp>

■ The Complete Guide to Mt. Fuji
[A World Heritage Site]
<http://www.fujisan223.com>

Three Rules for Off-Season Climbers of Mt. Fuji

Guidelines for Safely Climbing Mt. Fuji

Mt. Fuji, selected a World Heritage Site, has a solitary peak that is the highest in Japan.

The summer climbing season runs from early July to early September.

But many climbers attempt an ascent in the severe weather conditions of the off-season, giving rise to a significant number of climbing accidents each year.

The Council for the Promotion of the Proper Use of Mt. Fuji (Secretariat: Ministry of the Environment, Yamanashi Prefecture, and Shizuoka Prefecture) has drawn up a set of Guidelines for Safely Climbing Mt. Fuji, outlining notes of caution to warn off climbers without sufficient skills, experience, and knowledge and without the proper gear and a climbing plan, particularly in the off-season outside the summer months.

This leaflet provides the rules for

off-season climbers given in the guidelines.



Three Rules for Off-Season Climbers

The risks of climbing accidents are very high amid severe weather conditions on Mt. Fuji in the off-season outside the summer months. On top of this, with toilets being closed, excreta left behind by climbers can disturb the precious mountain ecosystem. The Guidelines for Safely Climbing Mt. Fuji address these issues in three rules for off-season climbers.

Rule 1 Mt. Fuji is off limits to off-season climbers who are not fully prepared



Off limits to skiers and snowboarders who are not fully prepared

Article 46 of the Road Act stipulates the off-season closure of all trails of Mt. Fuji, as severe weather conditions make climbing extremely dangerous. With public toilets, first-aid centers, and huts being closed and cell phone signals being weak, difficulty ensuring safety has led to climbing accidents and deaths. As a rule, climbers are responsible for their own safety. There is no stopping the ascent of climbers with sufficient skills, experience, and knowledge, and with the proper gear and a climbing plan. But Mt. Fuji is off limits to off-season climbers who are not fully prepared.

In May 2014, a snowboarder died around the crater of Mt. Fuji. In light of this unfortunate accident, the guidelines were revised in March 2015 to further promote prevention of accidents by skiers and snowboarders. Access to Mt. Fuji now requires sufficient skills, experience, and knowledge for skiers and snowboarders as well as climbers.

Rule 2 Always complete and submit a Climbing Plan



Climbers are responsible for their own safety. To aid swift rescue in the event you are in an accident or go missing, however, always complete and submit a Climbing Plan, listing your schedule, group members, gear, and emergency contact. Note that submitting a Climbing Plan does not earn you permission to use the trails. *See the information below on where to submit your Climbing Plan.

Rule 3 Bring your own portable toilet



Mountain huts and public toilets at and above the 5th Station of Mt. Fuji are closed in the off-season. If attempting an ascent outside the summer months—remember, you must be fully prepared—always bring your own portable toilet and help conserve the natural environment of the World Heritage Site. Booths in which to use your toilet and excreta collection boxes are not provided. All climbers must take home their own waste for disposal.

◆ Where to submit your Climbing Plan

- Submit your Climbing Plan a week or so in advance, with plenty of time before your ascent.
- Inform your family and friends at work or school about the contents of your Climbing Plan, so that someone will notice in the event you go missing.
- The Climbing Plan form may be downloaded on the Official Website for Mt. Fuji Climbing.



Yoshida Trail

■ Local Section, Yamanashi Prefectural Police Headquarters

1-6-1 Marunouchi, Kofu-shi, Yamanashi 400-8586
Tel. 055-221-0110 / Fax. 055-224-1180

■ Fujiyoshida Police Station

5-10-13 Matsuyama, Fujiyoshida-shi, Yamanashi 403-0016
Tel. 0555-22-0110 / Fax. 0555-22-0110

■ Trailhead box

Subashiri Trail

■ Higashi Fuji Branch, Shizuoka Prefecture Council for the Prevention of Mountain Accidents

[Disaster Prevention Sect., Citizen Welfare Dept., Oyama Town Hall]
General Cultural Center, 130 Adano, Oyama-cho, Sunto-gun, Shizuoka 410-1321
Tel. 0550-76-5715 / Fax. 0550-76-5910

■ Gotemba Police Station

439-2 Hokkubara, Gotemba-shi, Shizuoka 412-0004
Tel. 0550-84-0110

■ Trailhead box

(near entrance, next to Azumaya mountain hut)

Gotemba Trail

■ Higashi Fuji Branch, Shizuoka Prefecture Council for the Prevention of Mountain Accidents

[Administration Sect., Administration Dept., Gotemba City Hall]
483 Hagiwara, Gotemba-shi, Shizuoka 412-8601
Tel. 0550-82-4320 / Fax. 0550-82-4523

■ Gotemba Police Station

439-2 Hokkubara, Gotemba-shi, Shizuoka 412-0004
Tel. 0550-84-0110

■ Trailhead box

(near torii gateway at trail entrance, next to the notice board)

Fujinomiya Trail

■ Fujinomiya Branch, Shizuoka Prefecture Council for the Prevention of Mountain Accidents

[Tourism Sect., Industry Promotion Dept., Fujinomiya City Hall]
150 Yumizawa-cho, Fujinomiya-shi, Shizuoka 418-8601
Tel. 0544-22-1155 / Fax. 0544-22-1385

■ Fujinomiya Police Station

160 Johoku-cho, Fujinomiya-shi, Shizuoka 418-0062
Tel. 0544-23-0110

■ Trailhead box

(5th stage trailhead entrance, at staircase landing in the rest house in front of Fujisan General Guidance Center)

* Please submit your Climbing Plan by post or fax when roads are closed, as trailhead boxes may be removed.