



Photo by CNN.

According to [CNN](#), in addition to the loss of life (now confirmed at over 1500 but likely to rise considerably), the economic costs are huge:

Losses from the quake, tsunami and fires will total at least \$100 billion, including \$20 billion in damage to residences and \$40 billion in damage to infrastructure such as roads, rail and port facilities, catastrophe modeling firm Eqecat estimated.

The Japanese were well-prepared for earthquakes — much better than the U.S. — but it still wasn't enough.