

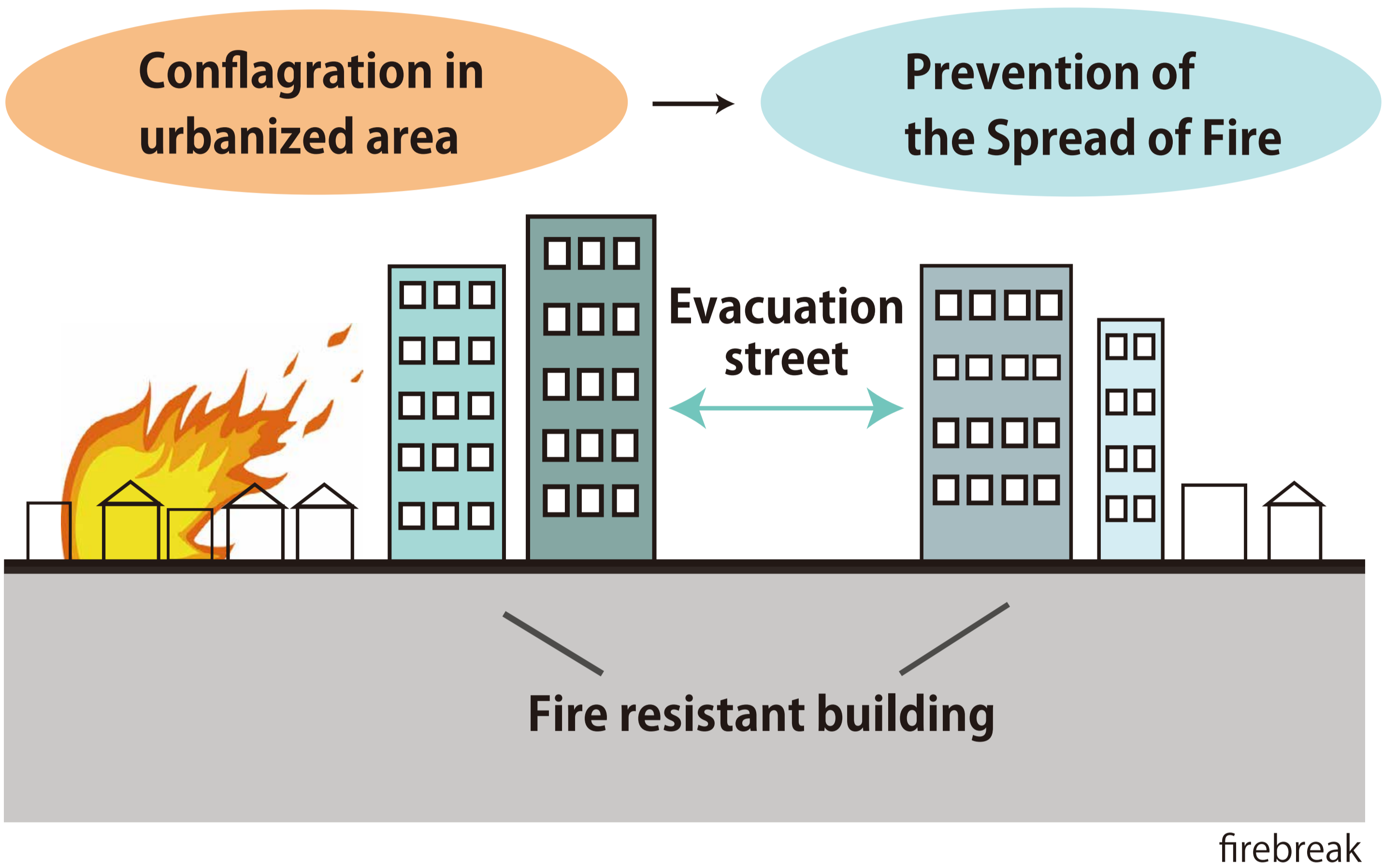
# Activities of Disaster Prevention in Mukojima

## Physical and Social Measures for Disaster Prevention

### The Widening the Road for the Fire Prevention and Evacuation

Mukojima has many old wooden buildings stand densely, and narrow streets go through them. In case of earthquake, buildings may collapse and fire may spread, escape routes may be lost.

So far countermeasures for disaster were mainly make buildings fire resistant and widen the streets and alleys. These were lead by the local government in Mukojima. However, if we rely only on them, attractive alley spaces, which is a feature of Mukojima, would be lost.



Alley space in Mukojima

## Residents Driven Community Development, for the Next 100 years

"Community for the next 100 years" is a slogan in Mukojima. Residents in Mukojima work not only to improve their physical condition, but to raise the awareness for disaster prevention by good communication and citizen oriented activities. There are various activities, including workshops for disaster prevention and utilization of rain water.

However most of the participants to such activities are seniors. It is a task to have more young people involved.

## Countermeasures for Vacant Houses, and Disaster Prevention Activities by Utilizing Rain Water

### Renovating a Vacant Store to Retro-Style

Increase of vacant houses in the dense wooden area can lower the security, by arson or illegal dumping. So, vacant houses that are found to be dangerous would be removed, in cooperation with the local government.

On the other hand, there are movements to utilize the vacant houses and stores. The old house in the shopping street built about 90 years ago is now used as mix of residential and "Koguma (Little Bear) Cafe".



The appearance of the Koguma Cafe

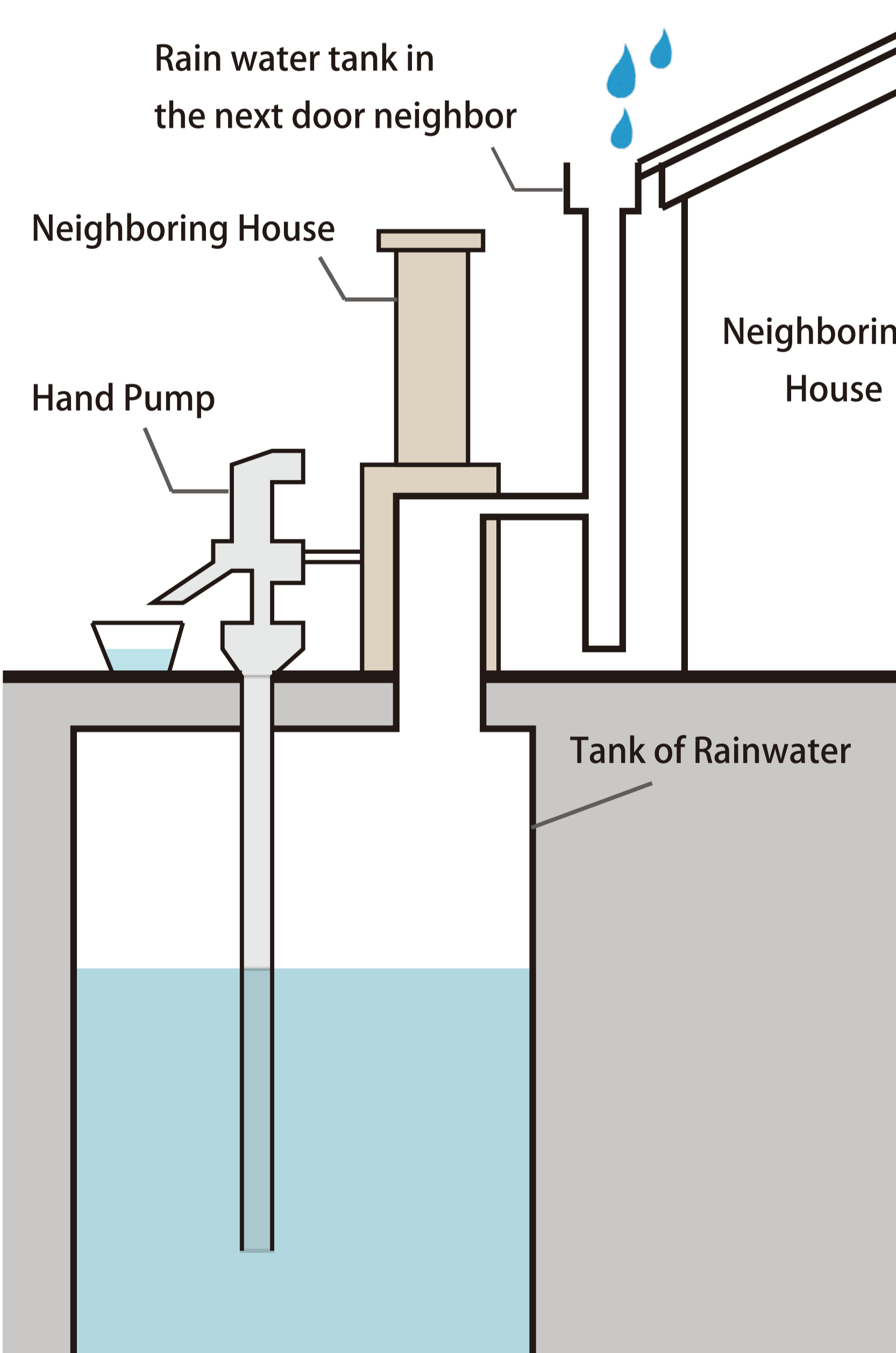


The interior of the Koguma Cafe

### "Rojison", the symbol for the safety in alley district



Rojison



Mechanism of Rojison

Rojison represents the utilization of rain water in Mukojima. In Rojison, rainwater is kept in underground tank and pumped out by hand pump. It can be used in case of disaster. Residents have experiences to extinguish fire by bucket-relay from a Rojison.

Rojison expresses strong will of the community "We keep good communication because the streets and alleys are narrow. Let's help each other."