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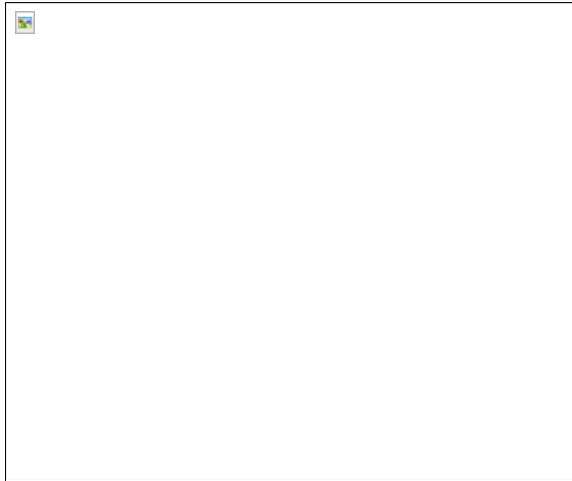
## The Situation in Japan (Updated 03/22/11)

As the situation in Japan continues to evolve, we want to keep you abreast of the latest information on the assistance and expertise we're providing to the Japanese response and recovery efforts. Please take note of the dates attached to each piece of information, as this is a very fluid situation that is continually evolving.

### March 22, 2011

Today the U.S. Department of Energy released data recorded from its Aerial Monitoring System as well as ground detectors deployed along with its Consequence Management Response Teams. The information has also been shared with the government of Japan as part of the United States' ongoing efforts to support Japan with the recovery and response effort.

[Read the press release](#)



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### March 18, 2011

**JOINT EPA/DOE STATEMENT: Radiation Monitors Confirm That No Radiation Levels of Concern Have Reached the United States**

WASHINGTON – The United States Government has an extensive network of radiation monitors around the country and no radiation levels of concern have been detected. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency RadNet system is designed to protect the public by notifying scientists, in near real time, of elevated levels of radiation so they can determine whether protective action is required. The EPA's system has not detected any radiation levels of concern.

In addition to EPA's RadNet system, the U.S. Department of Energy has radiation monitoring equipment at research facilities around the country, which have also not detected any radiation levels of concern.

As part of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization's International Monitoring System (IMS), the Department of Energy also maintains the capability to detect tiny quantities of radioisotopes that might indicate an underground nuclear test on the other side of the world. These detectors are extremely sensitive and can detect minute amounts of radioactive materials.

Today, one of the monitoring stations in Sacramento, California that feeds into the IMS detected minuscule quantities of iodine isotopes and other radioactive particles that pose no health concern at the detected levels. Collectively, these levels amount to a level of approximately 0.0002 disintegrations per second per cubic meter of air (0.2 mBq/m3). Specifically, the level of Iodine-131 was 0.165 mBq/m3, the level of Iodine-132 was measured at 0.03 mBq/m3, the level of Tellurium-132 was measured at 0.04 mBq/m3, and the level of Cesium-137 was measured at 0.002 mBq/m3.

Similarly, between March 16 and 17, a detector at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington State detected trace amounts of Xenon-133, which is a radioactive noble gas produced during nuclear fission that poses no concern at the detected level. The levels detected were approximately 0.1 disintegrations per second per cubic meter of air (100 mBq/m3).

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Secretary Chu on:

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The doses received by people per day from natural sources of radiation - such as rocks, bricks, the sun and other background sources - are 100,000 times the dose rates from the particles and gas detected in California or Washington State.

These types of readings remain consistent with our expectations since the onset of this tragedy, and are to be expected in the coming days.

Following the explosion of the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine in 1986 – the worst nuclear accident in world history – air monitoring in the United States also picked up trace amounts of radioactive particles, less than one thousandth of the estimated annual dose from natural sources for a typical person.

As part of the federal government's continuing effort to make our activities and science transparent and available to the public, the Environmental Protection Agency will continue to keep all RadNet data available in the current online database.

Please see [www.epa.gov/radiation](http://www.epa.gov/radiation) for more information.

#### March 17, 2011

Deputy Secretary Poneman joined U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Gregory Jaczkon to provide a status update on the situation in Japan during the daily White House Press Briefing.



[Transcript](#)

#### March 16, 2011

Secretary Chu provided an update on the Energy's role in the process during a [Congressional hearing](#):

*"Officials from the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and other agencies have maintained close contact with Japanese officials and have provided the Japanese government with expertise in a variety of areas.*

*As part of that effort, the Department of Energy has sent two experts to Japan to provide advice and technical assistance.*

*We are positioning Consequence Management Response Teams at U.S. Consulates and military installations in Japan. These teams have the skills, expertise and equipment to help assess, survey, monitor and sample areas. They include smaller groups that could be sent out to gather technical information in the area.*

*We have sent our Aerial Measuring System capability, including detectors and analytical equipment used to provide assessments of contamination on the ground.*

*In total, the DOE team includes 39 people with more than 17,000 pounds of equipment.*

*The Department is also monitoring activities through the DOE Nuclear Incident Team and is employing assets at its National Laboratories to provide ongoing predictive atmospheric modeling capabilities based on a variety of scenarios.*

*The American people should have full confidence that the United States has rigorous safety regulations in place to ensure that our nuclear power is generated safely and responsibly. Information is still coming in about the events unfolding in Japan, but the Administration is committed to learning from Japan's experience as we work to continue to strengthen America's nuclear industry.*

*Safety remains at the forefront of our effort to responsibly develop America's energy resources, and we will continue to incorporate best practices and lessons learned into that process."*

Deputy Secretary Poneman participated in a special press briefing with Under Secretary for Management at the State Department Pat Kennedy regarding the situation in Japan. You can [listen to the full briefing](#) and [review the transcript](#) courtesy of [State.gov](http://State.gov).

#### March 14, 2011

Deputy Secretary Poneman joined U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Gregory Jaczkon to provide additional details on the situation in Japan during the White House Press Briefing.



[Transcript](#)

Late afternoon on Monday, March 14, 2011, the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration deployed 33 people and more than 17,200 pounds of equipment - including Consequence Management Response Teams and NNSA Aerial Measuring Systems - to Japan in response to the recent earthquake and tsunami. You can view photos and video from the deployment below.



Click on a photo for a detailed description.

**How You Can Help**

USAID is coordinating the overall U.S. government efforts in support of the Japanese government's response to the earthquakes and subsequent tsunamis. Visit [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) for information about supporting the response efforts.

For more information, including alerts for U.S. citizens currently in Japan, please visit the [Department of State](#) and [USA.gov](http://USA.gov).

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