ATLANTA (AP) — A nuclear power plant in Nebraska briefly lost the pump used to cool spent nuclear fuel during a suspected electrical fire.

Utility officials said the fire Tuesday damaged an electrical system used to run a pump at the Fort Calhoun Station that recirculates water in a pool holding hot, radioactive nuclear fuel that has been used.

The pump was out of commission for an hour before the system was restored. Omaha Public Power District spokesman Mike Jones said the company had backup equipment but didn't need to use it. Jones initially said that plant operators deliberately took the pump offline to respond to the fire.

If a pool pump fails for several days and is not fixed, cooling water could boil away and eventually cause radioactive releases.
Despite problems, NRC says US nuke plants safe

Despite problems, agency says US nuke plants safe

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