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## Japan's nuclear emergency

Damage at a nuclear power plant has made leaking radiation the primary threat facing a country grappling with devastation from a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami.

For a narrated animation of what happened, [click here](#).

1 2 3 4 Next »

### State of the reactors

A look at where things stand at the Fukushima Daiichi plant as of 2:30 p.m. Saturday, local time.



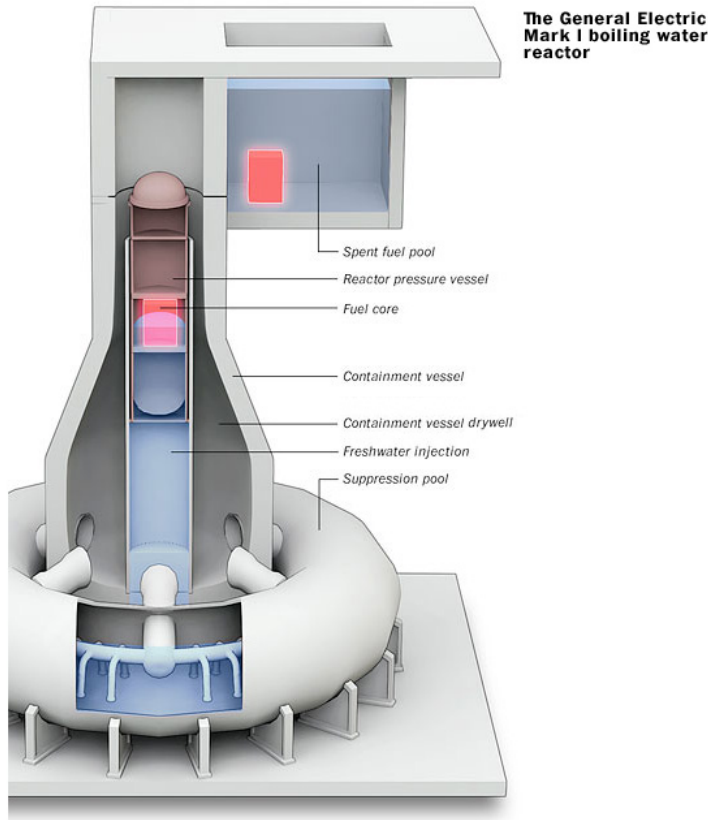
March 18 image by GeoEye

Water from units 1-4 has contaminated adjacent seawater with iodine-131 and cesium-137. Engineers are processing about 60,000 tons of contaminated water found in the turbine buildings of units 1, 2 and 3, diverting it to reactor condensers and temporary storage tanks, with plans to send it to a radiation waste treatment facility before discharging the water into the sea.



	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Fuel core	Damaged	Severe damage	Damaged	Empty
Reactor pressure vessel	Fuel half-exposed; temperature high, but stable; pressure rising	Fuel half-exposed; temperature stable; pressure stable	Fuel half-exposed; temperature stable; pressure stable	
Freshwater injection	By mobile pump	By mobile pump	By mobile pump	
Containment vessel	No information	Damage suspected	Damage suspected	
Containment vessel drywell	Pressure rising	Stable	Stable	
Spent fuel pool	Freshwater spraying completed by pump tuck	Freshwater injection through fuel pool cooling line	Freshwater injection through fuel pool cooling line and spraying	Freshwater spraying completed by pump tuck
Containment building	Severe damage	Slight damage	Severe damage	Severe damage
Power to reactor	AC power to instruments; lighting in control room	AC power to instruments; lighting in control room	AC power to instruments; lighting in control room	AC power to instruments; lighting in control room

Units 5 and 6 in cold shutdown with off-site power



Social Responsibility; Thomas McKone, senior staff scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; General Electric.