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Posted on Sun, Mar. 27, 2011 10:55 PM

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More obstacles impede crews in Japan nuclear crisis

The Associated Press

TOKYO | Mounting problems, including badly miscalculated radiation figures and inadequate storage tanks for huge amounts of contaminated water, have stymied emergency workers struggling to nudge Japan's stricken nuclear complex back from the edge of disaster.

Workers are attempting to remove the radioactive water from the tsunami-ravaged nuclear compound and restart the regular cooling systems for the dangerously hot fuel.

The day began Sunday with company officials reporting that radiation in leaking water in the Unit 2 reactor was 10 million times above normal, a spike that forced employees to flee the unit. The day ended with officials saying the huge figure had been miscalculated and offering apologies.

A few hours later, Tokyo Electric Power Co. Vice President Sakae Muto said a new test had found radiation levels 100,000 times above normal — far better than the first results, though still high.

A magnitude 6.5 quake off the northeast coast this morning briefly prompted a tsunami warning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, but the quake — one of dozens that have shaken Japan in the past two weeks — added to the sense of unease in the nation.



Ichiro Ohara

Electricity poles were being erected Sunday along a street in the tsunami-damaged town of Minamisanriku, Japan.

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