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Mar 11, 2011

## Radiation 1K times normal at one Japan nuke plant

04:23 PM

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By [Michael Winter](#), USA TODAY

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**Update at 6:25 p.m. ET:** Japan's nuclear safety agency is preparing to issue what Kyodo News called "an unprecedented order" directing the Tokyo Electric Power Co. to open a valve at the earthquake-crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant to release pressure from a reactor that is in danger of overheating.

**Original post:** Radiation 1,000 times normal has been detected inside a crippled nuclear plant in northeastern Japan where utility managers have released potentially radioactive steam to reduce mounting reactor pressure, the [Kyodo News service](#) is reporting, citing the government's safety agency.



CAPTION

By Kyodo New

That suggests radioactivity could spread around Tokyo Electric Power's [Fukushima No. 1](#) plant, with residents within a 6-mile radius were ordered to leave before dawn Saturday.

A state of emergency has been declared at the plant, one of the world's largest. Its primary cooling system was disabled by Friday's magnitude 8.9 earthquake.

There's potential danger to the public from three of at least 11 nuclear power reactors that are shut down, [Science Monitor](#) reports.

Managers at Fukushima No. 1 [said earlier](#) that any radiation in the steam would be "very low and that residents have been ensured," Kyodo [reported earlier](#). Within the hour, plant officials said some radiation already had been released, according to Kyodo.

About 3,000 people within a 2-mile radius had been ordered to leave late Friday, while thousands within a 4-mile radius were told to stay indoors. Before dawn, however, mandatory evacuations were extended to a 6-mile radius. Prime Minister Naoto Kan plans to visit the plant later Saturday.

A U.S. nuclear specialist calls it "a dicey situation."

"They're operating on battery power now, and if they lose the batteries, they lose core cooling," Ed Conroy, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists, told the *Monitor*. He said the military is supposed to be bringing a backup cooling system operating to prevent the reactor's uranium core from overheating and melting.

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[1dbe08a7546f4652](#) (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 4m ago

This is the perfect opportunity to promote the use of the element Thorium in nuclear reactors! Thorium is on the periodic table, and it can be used in a similar way to generate nuclear energy. This is a real technology that was developed in the middle part of the last century. It is much safer, much cleaner, and unbelievably cheap when compared to uranium. If you have never heard of this please Google it and study up, and join the Thorium movement! I'm not joking, it is the solution to our energy problems. It's the best of both worlds. We get to keep growing nuclear energy, in a much safer and more abundant way. A boat load of \$\$\$ !!! The only reason Uranium became the dominant fuel source for nuclear reactors is because it can be used to make BOMBS! Think about it... once you learn about this you will want to tell the world. God Bless... and check it out, seriously. IT MAKES NO SENSE WHY THORIUM IS NOT PART OF THE NUCLEAR DEBATE.

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[rogue guardian](#) (47 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 8m ago

Exxodus (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 41m ago

Kristi L wrote:

According to Conservatives: Nuclear Power Plant and Oil Rigs are entirely safe.

As is everything we use! I am glad someone with your view point was not around when they invented fire. I guess we shouldn't progress because it can be dangerous.

-----  
 comparing fire with radiation is sort of like comparing a pebble with a mountain.  
 yeah we need nuclear energy.  
 no we dont need nuclear plants on fault lines.  
 and we do need to strive to make it safer. not just from terrorist attacks but natural disaster and human err even the freak accident.  
 we also need to devolope better tools to deal with emergencies and clean up and repairs.and make sure c right  
 we have to remember we can always do better.  
 we are after all talking about a energy source that could take out a huge part of a state, killing and poisonii tons of crop land, and making drinking water sources toxic. for at least decades. a major nucleaer acciden like a minor traffic accident.

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[robertoconsuerte](#) (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 26m ago  
 Orlandojon (134 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 3m ago  
 The libs will use this as an excuse to ban nuclear power

Orlandojon: I gotta an idea....Why don't you pack up your family and move them into the vicinity? After all. answer for you and us liberals...You phase your gene pool out so we don't have to keep repeating : "I told

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[robertoconsuerte](#) (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 34m ago  
 People should be worried about the bodies they find during the clean up than the nuclear stuff. Cholera.

Plus, the economic fall out from this entire disaster.....Yeaah Baby!!! I bet you could even move your famil; consult with them on the economic recovery!

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[grappler1987](#) (96 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 34m ago  
 Interesting. This article shows that in one of our nuclear plants it takes about 10 days to cool down the rod them. They are still hot but cool enough to work with.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,984206-1,00.html>

It seems that at least several more days of cooling is needed at the Japanese sites.

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[stressedout321](#) (2 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 34m ago

You boys crack me up you do not unplug a nuclear power plant...safety system and back up safety system and subsequently the reactor is taken off-line but you have to remove the heat & the pressure. The plant is Reactor Design. Nuclear Engineering, Operators, Chemistist, Environmentalist, Radiation Safety Experts, Emergency Planning and other's are in place. With now three units affected at one time this will be challer organization plus dealing with their personal tragedy and devastation at the same time. Our thoughts and them all...

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[ncquy](#) (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 34m ago

The Tea Party just released a statement this is Obams's fault, If it weren't for Obama care and the fact tha never would hve happened. Stuff like this didn't happen under Bubba Buch

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[Gator1976](#) (36 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 35m ago

American-America (1 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 3m ago

They need to roll up a couple 1000 of their piece of garbage Prius'....Ought to keep the cooling system bat 5-10 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Incredibly stupid.

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