

# EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

[A-Z index](#)

## **News Releases - Air**

# **CORRECTION: UPDATED – please note the addition of “hundreds of thousands” in the second and sixth paragraphs Radiation Monitors Continue to Confirm That No Radiation Levels of Concern Have Reached the United States**

Release date: 03/22/2011

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**WASHINGTON** – During a detailed analysis of four west coast RadNet air monitor filters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified trace amounts of radioactive iodine, cesium, and tellurium consistent with the Japanese nuclear incident. These levels are consistent with the levels found by a Department of Energy monitor last week and are to be expected in the coming days.

EPA's samples were captured by three monitors in California and one in Washington State on Friday, March 18 and sent to EPA scientists for detailed laboratory analysis. The data was reviewed over the weekend and the analysis was completed Monday night. The radiation levels detected on the filters from California and Washington monitors are **hundreds of thousands** to millions of times below levels of concern.

In addition, last night preliminary monitor results in Hawaii detected minuscule levels of an isotope that is also consistent with the Japanese nuclear incident. This detection varies from background and historical data in Hawaii. This isotope was detected at our fixed monitor in Hawaii, and it is far below any level of concern for human health. The sampling filter from this monitor is being sent to our national radiation lab for further analysis.

In a typical day, Americans receive doses of radiation from natural sources like rocks, bricks and the sun that are about 100,000 times higher than what we have detected coming from Japan. For example, the levels we're seeing coming from Japan are 100,000 times lower than what you get from taking a roundtrip international flight.

EPA is in the process of conducting detailed filter analyses for fixed monitors located in Oregon.

EPA's RadNet filter results for San Francisco, Seattle, Riverside and Anaheim, California detected minuscule quantities of iodine isotopes and other radioactive particles that pose no health concern at the detected levels. Below are the results of the detailed filter analysis. All of the radiation levels detected during the detailed filter analysis are **hundreds of thousands to millions of times below levels of concern**.

All units are in Picocuries per meter cubed.

- Filter results for Anaheim, Calif. found:

Cesium-137: 0.0017  
Tellurium-132: 0.012  
Iodine-132: 0.0095  
Iodine-131: 0.046

- Filter results for Riverside, Calif. found:

Cesium-137: 0.00024  
Tellurium-132: 0.0014  
Iodine-132: 0.0015  
Iodine-131: 0.011

- Filter results for Seattle, Wash. found:

Cesium-137: 0.00045  
Tellurium-132: 0.0034  
Iodine-132: 0.0029  
Iodine-131: 0.013

- Filter results for San Francisco, Calif. found:

Cesium-137: 0.0013  
Tellurium-132: 0.0075  
Iodine-132: 0.0066  
Iodine-131: 0.068

EPA's 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. In addition, an analysis of the filters in the monitors can identify even the smallest trace amounts of specific radioactive isotopes.

As part of the federal government's continuing effort to make our activities and science transparent and available to the public, EPA will continue to keep RadNet data available at: <http://www.epa.gov/japan2011/>

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