



# Japan radiation makes way to U.S.

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By Judy Keen, USA TODAY

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At le  
 amounts of radiation from the crippled nuclear plant in Japan, but officials say the levels of radioactivity are much too low to prompt health concerns.



By  
 Hiroto Nomoto, AP Rain falls in the earthquake and tsunami-destroyed city of Ofunato, northern Japan. [Enlarge](#)

By Hiroto Nomoto, AP

Rain falls in the earthquake and tsunami-destroyed city of Ofunato, northern Japan.

Very low concentrations of iodine-131 were found last week in a rainwater sample in Boston. "It is not a problem for public safety nor is it a threat to the drinking water supply," said Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan.

Sullivan ordered the collection of drinking water samples from 12 locations Sunday. Tests showed the water was "absolutely clean," he said.

No radiation has been discovered in Virginia, but state Health Commissioner Karen Remley said she asked that routine quarterly monitoring be conducted this week instead of next week as scheduled. "I am not worried," she said.

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levels in some locations than last week but said they are "still far below levels of public health concern."

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan damaged the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant, prompting radioactive emissions that have been dispersed by weather systems.

Iodine-131 ordinarily is not found in Nevada and can be linked to Japan because of its half-life, said Ted Hartwell, manager of environmental monitoring at Nevada's Desert Research Institute.

Iodine-131 "has a very short half-life of about eight days, so we know it's from a fairly recent event," he said. Half-life is the length of time it takes a radioactive substance to decrease in potency by half.

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- Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett said Monday that weekend testing found no elevated levels of radioactivity in his state's drinking water. Iodine-131 was found Friday in rain samples.
- Aubrey Godwin, director of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency, said he was not surprised when two sensors 50 miles apart detected trace amounts of radioactive material. "We saw the same thing after Chernobyl," the 1986 nuclear disaster in the former Soviet Union, he said. "It shouldn't be concerning to Arizonans," he said.
- Case Western Reserve University geology professor Gerald Matisoff said Monday that he found trace amounts of iodine-131 in

rainwater he collected from the roof of a campus building in Cleveland for an unrelated study.

- Monitors picked up low levels of iodine-131 at Progress Energy's nuclear plants in Hartsville, S.C., and Crystal River, Fla., last week, said company spokesman Drew Elliot.

Sullivan isn't surprised radiation made its way to Massachusetts. "The world," he said, "sometimes is a small place."

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