



Japanese Nuclear Emergency: EPA's Radiation Air Monitoring



Last updated on Sunday, March 27:

As a result of the incident with the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan, several EPA air monitors have detected very low levels of radioactive material in the United States consistent with estimates from the damaged nuclear reactors. These detections were expected and the levels detected are far below levels of public-health concern.

Elevated levels of radioactive material in rainwater have been expected as a result of the nuclear incident after the events in Japan since radiation is known to travel in the atmosphere. There have been reports received that the states of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts have seen elevated levels of radiation in recent precipitation events. EPA is reviewing this data – however, in both cases these are levels above the normal background levels historically reported in these areas.

While short-term elevations such as these do not raise public health concerns – and the levels seen in rainwater are expected to be relatively short in duration – the U.S. EPA has taken steps to increase the level of nationwide monitoring of precipitation, drinking water, and other potential exposure routes to continue to verify that.

EPA's only recommendation to state and local governments is to continue to coordinate closely with EPA, CDC and FDA – EPA will continue to communicate our nationwide sampling results as they come in.

[Additional information on EPA's accelerated drinking water and precipitation sampling](#)

[Daily Data Summary](#)

[Looking for the regular EPA Radiation home page?](#)

About Radiation

- [Understanding Radiation](#)
- [Sources of Radiation Exposure](#)
- [Radiation Doses in Perspective](#)

Overview of EPA's Radiation Monitoring Experience

- [Monitoring Radiological Incidents](#)
- [EPA's Radiation Response History](#)

Common Power Plant Radionuclides

- [Cesium](#)
- [Iodine](#)
- [Strontium](#)

Contact Us

E-Mail Us At:

RadNet Air Monitoring Data

- [Daily Data Summary](#)
- [EPA's RadNet Air Monitoring Data](#)
 - [Air Filter and Cartridge Results](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Preguntas más frecuentes](#)



EPA Updates

- [March 28, 2011 - EPA Monitoring Continues to Confirm That No Radiation Levels of Concern Have Reached the United States](#)
- [March 22, 2011 - Statement on Recent Findings in West Coast States and Hawaii](#)
- [March 18, 2011 - JOINT EPA/DOE STATEMENT: Radiation Monitors Confirm That No Radiation Levels of Concern Have Reached the United States](#)
- [March 15, 2011 - EPA Statement on Air Monitoring Effort](#)
 - [Declaración de EPA \(15 de marzo de 2011\)](#)

[Share](#)

- For Members of the Public:
radiation.questions@epa.gov
- For Press: press@epa.gov

<http://www.epa.gov/japan2011/>

U.S. Government Information on Japan
2011 Earthquake/Tsunami

- [In the United States](#)
- [American Citizens in Japan](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Donations and Relief Efforts](#)
- [Additional Information](#)

Last updated on Monday, March 28, 2011