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## News on Fukushima Daiichi



I'm Arnie Gundersen of Fairewinds Associates, and it's Friday, March 25th, 2011. I'm talking to you today about the radiation that's being emitted from the Fukushima plant. There are a lot of confusing terms out there, and I was hoping to clarify some of them.

On the news you're going to hear [things such as]: the radiation levels over 100 times normal, or that the radioactive concentration of iodine is 5 times what the health authorities wanted to talk about this. There's a couple different concepts in play here that are a little bit up.

First off, when uranium splits, it makes daughter products. These are daughter products that will also split too. They'll decay away, and in the process of decaying (it's called "disintegration") they emit three different things: they can emit a gamma ray, they can emit a beta particle, or they can emit an alpha particle. So, there's three different kinds of radioactive decay that result from the disintegration of these radioactive daughter products.

Radiation really means that energy is given up. When this particle decays and gives up energy. Well, where does that energy go? It gets absorbed by your body, and that can cause some cellular damage, and potentially cancer, especially in fast growing cells.