



## Nuclear Engineer Arnie Gundersen demonstrates How Fukushima's Fuel Rods Melted an... Italiano



Hi, I'm Arnie Gundersen from Fairewinds Associates. It's Sunday, April 10th.

For a change of routine, I wanted to do a science experiment today. Back in 1978 I was a nuclear engineer on a project in upstate New York, and the company I worked for bought the last nuclear reactor that was ever bought during the first nuclear renaissance project. That project was later cancelled, but as part of that, one of the things the vendor [who sold the reactor to me] gave me, was a piece of a nuclear fuel rod. This is a nuclear fuel rod. It's a zirconium dioxide. It's the element that's inside of the Fukushima reactors. Now, [in the reactor] they're about twelve feet tall and there are thousands of them inside the Fukushima reactor. Each one is a simulated pellet of uranium. Now, it's not the real thing; it's plastic. If it were the real thing, it would have been operating in Fukushima, I'd be dead by now. These pellets go into these fuel rods. For four years they create a lot of heat. When the reactor shuts down, they remain hot. What I'm doing today was to show you what happened to zirconium dioxide when it gets hot, as it happened in the Fukushima reactors.

Okay, we've got our experiment set up here, and this is what we plan to achieve. I took that plastic out [of], and we're going to heat it with a torch to simulate