

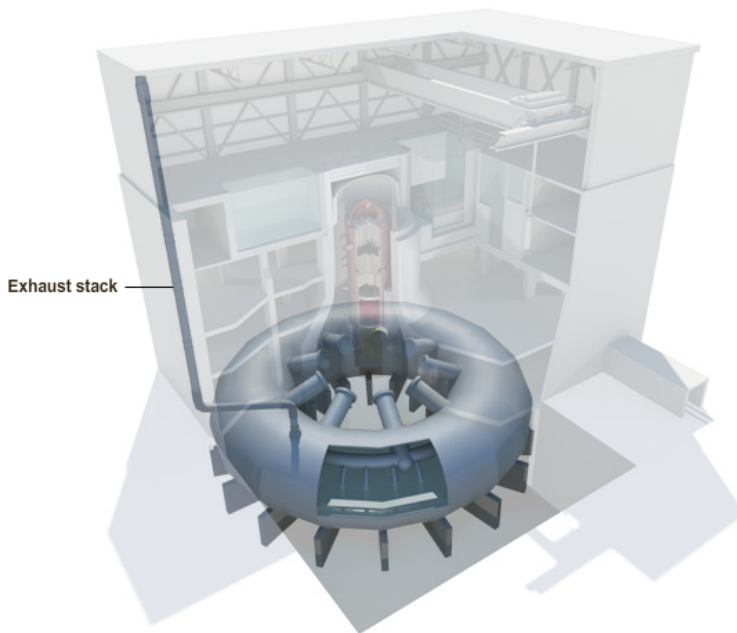
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## Venting Failure in the Nuclear Reactors at Fukushima Daiichi

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After the earthquake and tsunami, the overheated fuel rods gave off hydrogen gas, which built up in the torus. Workers should have been able to open a valve, channeling the hydrogen through a hardened vent to the **exhaust stack**. The valve failed, probably because the mechanism relies on a series of electrical connections that did not work.



By HAEYOUN PARK, ARCHIE TSE, MIKA GRÖNDAHL and GRAHAM ROBERTS | [Send Feedback](#)

Sources: Tepco; General Electric; Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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