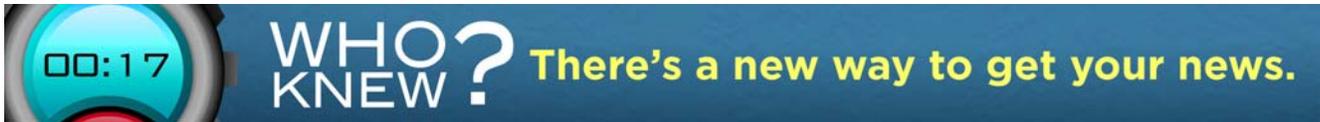


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Tiny amounts of radiation from Japan reach Nev.

The logo for the Associated Press, featuring the letters "AP" in red and the text "Associated Press" in black.

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By MARTIN GRIFFITH, Associated Press – Sun Mar 27, 4:34 am ET

RENO, Nev. – Nevada has joined several western states in reporting that minuscule amounts of radiation from Japan's damaged nuclear plant are showing up. But as with the other states, scientists say there is no health risk.

Extremely small amounts of the radioactive isotopes iodine-131 and xenon-133 reached a monitoring station by Las Vegas' Atomic Testing Museum this week, said Ted Hartwell, manager of the Desert Research Institute's Community Environmental Monitoring Program.

Hartwell said he's certain the isotopes came from Japan because they're not usually detected in Nevada. But he said the readings were far below levels that could pose any health risks.

"Unless you have an accident like this (in Japan) you wouldn't expect to see this. No doubt it's from Japan," Hartwell told The Associated Press.

California, Colorado, Hawaii and Washington have also reported tiny amounts of radiation from the Japan accident. Officials have said those levels also are not harmful.

Nevada health officials have said they do not expect any risk to the state from Japanese radiation releases because of the distance the materials would have to travel.

"Any material released must travel 10,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean, during which time it will be dispersed and diluted in the atmosphere to levels that might eventually be detectable, but which will not present a health hazard nor require any protective actions," said Eric Matus, radiation physicist for the Nevada State Health Division.

Scientists say they weren't surprised that radioactive isotopes from Japan were detected in the Western states.

"They get caught up in the right wind pattern and they'll move across the ocean," said Jeff Daniels, an environmental scientist with Reno-based DRI.

Tiny amounts of the radioactive isotope cesium-137 were detected at a University of Nevada, Las Vegas laboratory between March 17 and 21, but haven't been reported since then, Hartwell said.

The Desert Research Institute operates 29 stations that monitor the air for radioactivity around the Nevada National Security Site, formerly the Nevada Test Site, about 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The institute plans to release the results of testing at the other stations and post them online at <http://cemp.dri.edu/> by late in the week, Hartwell said.

The vast majority of the monitoring stations are in Nevada, with four in Utah and one in California.

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Jeffrey 14 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

120 6

ummm----isn't "zenon" --> "xenon"?

[Replies \(20\)](#)

Chucko 10 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

40 0

I remember "Shot Simon" from the 50's or 60's; one of the Nevada nuclear aboveground "tests". It was one of THE dirtiest nuclear devices ever lit. I think Wikipedia has a picture of it. It has a nice, brite uranium yellow color to the whole mushroom cloud. Fallout from that blast blew right across the plains and hit lower Michigan, along with a bunch of other states. I'm pretty sure monitoring stations were not in place to track that one. I have 57 good years under my belt, and hope for maybe twenty more: but I bet I got irradiated out of that one. And it makes me wonder if I would "tick" if placed in front of some sensitive equipment. Point is - neither government or media will tell the truth.

[Replies \(2\)](#)

Greg 11 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

74 3

It's Jay Leno's line: "President Obama told Americans not to worry about the radiation from Japan — as he left for South America."

[Reply](#)

Tim 12 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

103 6

99 percent of our goods come frm china there neighbor..Hope we start checking all their goods for radiation contamination...

[Replies \(3\)](#)

Iron Wolf 13 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

99 6

Excuse me for being cynical, but it seems like every time we're told not to worry, that everything will be okay, it always get worse. This time I hope the talking heads are right.

[Replies \(4\)](#)

Milton 11 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

52 2

Yeah- wait until Godzilla and Rodan appear in the Nevada desert near Area 51. The government will still tell us that they only pose a miniscule threat. Gotta go, black helicopters flying overhead!

[Replies \(1\)](#)

USA 13 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

109 **8**

I thought those dice were rolling HOT tonight, now I know why.

[Replies \(4\)](#)

Jim S 13 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

117 **9**

How long before Vegas doesn't need the lights to glow at night?

[Replies \(1\)](#)

LinNeX 13 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

68 **4**

one thing we should all know is the governments are good at hiding facts. hence wikileaks.

[Replies \(2\)](#)

Ann Forbes 12 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

39 **1**

So this is it huh? numbers will decide our fate? numbers mean nothing coming from a government that we can't trust, the truth is something we probably don't want to hear.

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