

# Any B.C. radiation increase 7 days away

[CBC News](#)

Posted: Mar 29, 2011 4:51 PM PT

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## Beginning of Story Content

It will be another week before scientists in B.C. can assess if a dramatic increase radiation detected in Japan will result in any radioactive risk in North America.

The radiation threat at the damaged Fukushima nuclear reactors were set to "maximum alert" Tuesday after highly toxic plutonium was found seeping into the soil outside the power plant.

"We clearly see from the data we have there is on the order of seven days between the releases in Fukushima and the radiation reaching us here," said Simon Fraser University scientist Kris Starosta. "We can monitor the situation in Japan and know ahead of time of any releases and we'll have our window to react and prepare for that."

[Tests on rainwater and seaweed](#) show radiation from the Fukushima plant made its way to B.C.'s shores about seven days after radioactive steam blew off from the reactors there.

## Also monitoring for cesium

So far, B.C. scientists have said local radiation levels that can be linked to the Japanese reactor are miniscule and [pose no health risk to the public](#).

Starosta said researchers will continue to keep an eye on radioactive iodine 131 — a key component of nuclear power plant radiation — but also on cesium 37.

"Cesium is harder to detect than iodine 131," Starosta said.

Iodine 131 also decays rapidly, he said, lessening the risk. Cesium can remain in the atmosphere for 30 years.

Starosta said that whether the leaking plutonium at Fukushima will appear in B.C is also a question, because it's unclear if it travels the same way as the other radioactive elements do.

*With files from the CBC's Priya Ramu*

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**bronson**2011/03/30  
at 4:33 AM ET

I'm amazed that no party is campaigning on the idea that they would shut all our nuclear plants down. If we started today the fuel would be cool enough to store in 10 yrs. or so...

Rating
-2

3	5
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[Reply](#)[Report abuse \(0\) | Policy](#)**123456654321**2011/03/30  
at 3:23 AM ET

Oh no, we're safe. Stephen Harper said Japan's nuclear woes are no risk to us!

...ya.

Rating
7

13	6
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[Reply](#)[Report abuse \(0\) | Policy](#)**Bookworms**2011/03/30  
at 2:49 AM ET

For those of you who seem so intent to bash the experts, I just want to mention that the situation in Japan with Fukushima is constantly changing.

Experts are not psychic, nor are they going to get it right all of the time. However they do have the ability to make educated guesses which is more than those of us who are not involved in nuclear power can say.

I would also like to see some numbers on the radiation levels in the area. I'm starting to feel a bit unnerved that no one is providing them.

Rating
2

6	4
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[Reply](#)[Report abuse \(0\) | Policy](#)**maggiropa**2011/03/30  
at 2:25 AM ET

Rating
5

7	2
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THIS is the kind of reporting CBC should be doing. We shouldn't have to go online to search for information, in this case, from Britain:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1371236/Japan-nuclear-crisis-Fukushima-radiation-leak-reaches-AT-LEAST-12-US-states.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

The next item I'll have to search for is if there is any way we on the west coast (Vancouver Island, to be precise) can protect ourselves. C'mon, CBC, you should be doing a much better job of informing us. Don't be afraid to be honest and do the work we need you to do.


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**mrJackieG**

2011/03/30  
at 1:11 AM ET

Any other nuclear plant or ship in the vicinity would have a nightmare with the alarms going off.  
Especially the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan  
Lloyd's shipping news say that any ship that gets this stuff on them they then have to scrap the ship.  
Once the ship has been tagged radioactive at a port, the waiting and hassles cause chaos to their schedule.  
No insurance = scrap.

Rating
2

3	1
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