

[Skip to Main Content](#)

- [Home](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Site Index](#)
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- [Chat](#)

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[Español](#)



Search

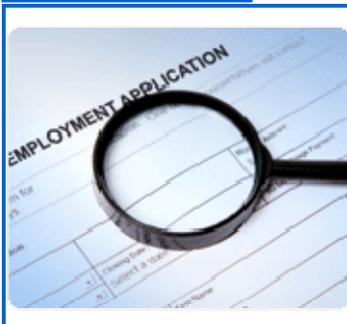
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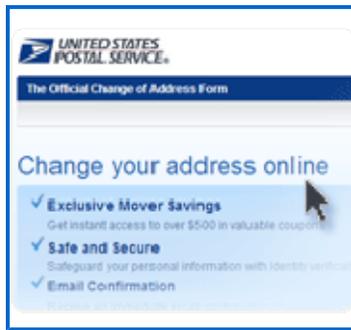
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  - [Travel and Recreation](#)
  - [Money and Taxes](#)
  - [Environment, Energy, and Agriculture](#)
- - [Benefits and Grants](#)
  - [Defense and International](#)
  - [Consumer Guides](#)
  - [Reference and General Government](#)
  - [History, Arts, and Culture](#)
  - [Voting and Elections](#)
- - [Science and Technology](#)
  - [Contests and Challenges](#)
  - [Business and Economy](#)
  - [Government Sales and Auctions](#)
  - [Public Service and Volunteerism](#)
  - [Government Performance](#)

## [Find Government Agencies](#)

- **All Government**



[A-Z Index of the U.S. Government](#)

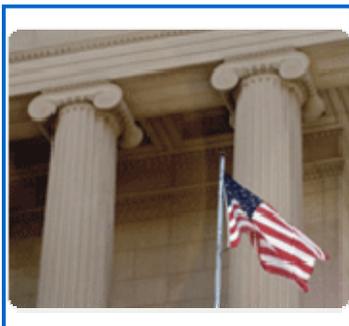
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- [Executive Branch](#)
- [Judicial Branch](#)
- [Legislative Branch](#)

- **State, Local, and Tribal**

- [State Government](#)
- [Local Government](#)
- [Tribal Government](#)

## [Contact Government](#)



- [U.S. Congress & White House](#)

- **Contact Government**

- [Elected Officials](#)
- [Agency Contacts](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [FAQs](#)

[MORE CONTACTS](#)



- [Governor and State Legislators](#)

- [Este tema en español](#)
- [E-mail](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Share](#)
- [RSS](#)

## You Are Here

[Home](#) > [Citizens](#) > Japan 2011 Earthquake/Tsunami – U.S. Government Information

# Japan 2011 Earthquake/Tsunami – U.S. Government Information

## In the United States

### Air Quality

As a result of the incident with the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan, several EPA monitors have detected very low levels of radioactive material in the United States consistent with estimates from the damaged nuclear reactors. These detections were expected and the levels detected are far below levels of public-health concern.

Elevated levels of radioactive material in rainwater have been expected as a result of the nuclear incident after the events in Japan since radiation is known to travel in the atmosphere. There have been reports received that the states of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts have seen elevated levels of radiation in recent precipitation events. EPA is reviewing this data – however, in both cases these are levels above the normal background levels historically reported in these areas.

While short-term elevations such as these do not raise health concerns – and the levels seen in rainwater are expected to be relatively short in duration – the U.S. EPA has taken steps to increase the level of nationwide monitoring of precipitation, drinking water, and other potential exposure routes to continue to verify that. EPA's only recommendation to state and local governments is to continue to

coordinate closely with EPA, CDC and FDA – EPA will continue to communicate our nationwide sampling results as they come in.

The EPA has its radiation air monitoring (RadNet) data, frequently asked questions, and other resources on <http://www.epa.gov/japan2011/>. Here you can:

- Read the [daily data summary](#).
- Find a [map of air monitoring stations and view graphs of the data](#).
- Read [frequently asked questions](#) about EPA's radiation monitoring.
- Learn about EPA's [RadNet radiation air monitoring data](#).

## Food Safety

The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) has deemed that based on current information, there is no risk to the U.S. food supply.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has jurisdiction over 80 percent of the food supply, including seafood, dairy, and produce. The U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates meat, poultry, and processed egg products, while FDA regulates all other food products.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has stated that Japan has not exported any beef products to the United States for nearly a year.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has stated that Japan is not currently eligible to export any poultry or processed egg products to the U.S.
- The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) and [Customs and Border Protection](#) carefully screen all food products for unsafe substances, including radiological material at Ports of Entry.
- Learn more about [keeping food safe during an emergency](#).

## Potassium Iodide (KI)

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) does **not** recommend that people in the United States take [potassium iodide](#) supplements (also called KI) in response to the damaged nuclear reactors in Japan.

- Only take KI on the advice of emergency management officials, public health officials, or your doctor.
- There are [health risks](#) associated with taking KI.

## Food, Mail, Ships, and Cargo from Japan

The [U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\)](#) is monitoring developments in Japan carefully and uses several types of radiation detection equipment in air and sea ports, mail facilities, and elsewhere to ensure safety.

- CBP and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration carefully screen all food products for unsafe substances, including radiological material, at Ports of Entry.
- All inbound travelers, baggage, and cargo are screened for radiological materials.
- CBP employs radiation monitors at international mail facilities.

## American Citizens in Japan

### American Embassy in Japan

All U.S. citizens in Japan should continue to carefully monitor the situation and follow the guidance of the U.S. and Japanese governments.

- If you are seeking assistance, contact the [U.S. Embassy and Consulates](#).
- [Provide information about yourself or your loved ones](#) to the U.S. State Department.
- If you're concerned about a U.S. citizen in Japan, contact the State Department at 1.888.407.4747 within the U.S. or 1.202.501.4444 outside the U.S.

### Authorized Departures

The U.S. government has [authorized the voluntary departure from Japan](#) of eligible family members of U.S. government personnel assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the U.S. Consulate in Nagoya, the Foreign Service Institute Field School in Yokohama, and U.S. Forces Japan.

### Evacuations

- The U.S. government has issued an [evacuation for U.S. citizens who are within 50 miles of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant](#).
- If you are seeking assistance, contact the [U.S Embassy and Consulates](#).
- Find [transportation options](#) from the affected areas.

### Travel to and from Japan

The State Department strongly urges U.S. citizens to defer travel to Japan at this time and those in Japan should consider departing.

- Read the official [travel warning](#) for Japan.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).
- Follow the Centers for Disease Control's [health advice and precautions for travel abroad](#).

## Disaster Preparedness

The tragic events in Japan remind us that disasters can strike at any time. The best way to make sure your family is taken care of when disaster strikes is to be prepared.

- Visit [Ready.gov](#) to build your family's emergency plan.
- Prepare for an [earthquake](#).
- Prepare for a [tsunami](#).
- Prepare for a [flood](#).

## Donations and Relief Efforts

- [Donate](#) – Your donation to the American Red Cross will support disaster relief efforts in Japan.
- Text your donation

- Red Cross – Redcross to 90999
- Convoy of Hope – Tsunami to 50555
- GlobalGiving – Japan to 50555
- World Relief Corp. – Wave to 50555
- Project HOPE – Health to 90999
- Operation Blessing – Bless to 50555
- Southeast – VOA to 27722

## Technical Assistance to Japan

The United States has deployed highly skilled teams to Japan, along with 17,200 pounds of equipment, to conduct aerial and ground monitoring, provide technical assistance, and help Japan track and assess the impact of the situation at the Fukushima nuclear power plants. This includes both Aerial Monitoring Systems and Consequence Management Teams from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, which have unique skills, expertise, and equipment to help assess, survey, monitor, and sample areas for radiation.

Nuclear experts from the Department of Energy and the independent U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission are also providing advice, analysis, and technical assistance to the Japanese government.

## Contact Your Government

Learn more about the assistance and expertise that the [U.S. Department of Energy](#) is providing to Japanese response and recovery efforts.

- [FAQs](#)
- [E-mail Us](#)
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## Additional Information

- [Earthquake in Japan](#) – See facts from the U.S. Geological Survey about the 9.0 earthquake.
- [Earthquake Preparedness and Response](#) – The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides helpful tips on how to prepare for an earthquake and what to do during a quake.
- [Earthquakes, Flooding, and Radiation](#) – The National Institutes of Health provides information and resources about natural disasters and their effects.
- [Tsunami Health Effects](#) – The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describes the immediate, secondary, and long-term health effects of a tsunami.
- [Tsunami Preparedness](#) – The Federal Emergency Management Agency explains what a tsunami is and provides guidance on what to do during a tsunami watch or warning.
- [Radiation](#) – Read about the assistance and expertise that the U.S. Department of Energy is providing to Japanese response and recovery efforts.
- [Food Safety](#) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service provides guidance on food safety in the event of a tsunami.





Page Last Reviewed or Updated: March 27, 2011

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