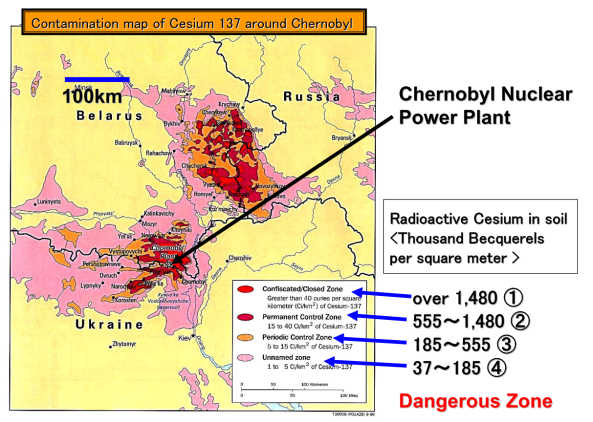
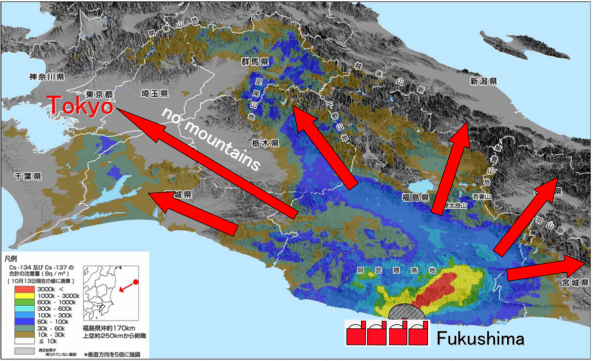
* **[My Radiation Story](https://myradiationstory.wordpress.com/" \o "My Radiation Story)**

**<http://endtimesnews.wordpress.com/2013/09/27/river-of-radioactive-wastewater-flows-from-fukushima-reactors-river-of-lies-to-cover-it-up/>**

**My story of living in Tokyo, Japan and being poisoned by radiation.**

**Here are eight things you need to know about this ongoing tragedy:**

1. In a residential area park in Tokyo, 230 km from Fukushima, the soil was found to have a radiation level of 92,335 Becquerels per square meter. This is a dangerous level, comparable to what is found around Chernobyl ④ zone (the site of a nuclear catastrophe in 1986). One reason this level of pollution is found in the capital is that between Tokyo and Fukushima there are no mountains high enough to block radioactive clouds. In the capital people who understand the danger absolutely avoid eating food produced in eastern Japan.



2. Inside Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Reactors #1 – #3 the pipes (which had circulated cooling water) are broken, which caused a meltdown. This means the nuclear fuel overheated, melted, and continued to melt anything it touched. Thus it melted through the bottom of the reactor, and then through the concrete floor of the building, and sank into the ground. As mentioned above, for two and a half years TEPCO workers have been desperately pouring water into the reactor, but it is not known whether the water is actually reaching the melted fuel. If a middle-strength earthquake comes, it is likely to destroy totally the already damaged building. And as a matter of fact, in the last two and a half years earthquakes have continued to hit Fukushima. (And as an additional matter of fact, just as this letter was being written Fukushima was hit by another middle-strength earthquake, but it seems that the building held up one more time. So far so good.) Especially dangerous is Reactor #4, where a large amount of nuclear fuel is being held in a pool, like another disaster waiting for its moment.

3. The cooling water being poured into the reactor is now considered the big problem in Japan. Newspapers and TV stations that previously strove to conceal the danger of nuclear power, are now reporting on this danger every day, and criticizing Shinzo Abe for the lie he told the IOC. The issue is that the highly irradiated water is entering and mixing with the ground water, and this leakage can’t be stopped, so it is spilling into the outer ocean. It is a situation impossible to control. In August, 2013 (the month prior to Abe’s IOC speech) within the site of Fukushima Daiichi Reactor, radiation was measured at 8500 micro Sieverts per hour. That is enough to kill anyone who stayed there for a month. This makes it a very hard place for the workers to get anything done. In Ohkuma-machi, the town where the Daiichi Nuclear Reactor is located, the radiation was measured in July, 2013 (two months before Abe’s talk) at 320 micro Sieverts per hour. This level of radiation would kill a person in two and a half years. Thus, over an area many kilometers wide, ghost towns are increasing.

4. For the sake of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, an important fact has been left out from reports that go abroad. Only the fact that irradiated water is leaking onto the surface of the ground around the reactor is reported. But deep under the surface the ground water is also being irradiated, and the ground water flows out to sea and mixes with the seawater through sea-bottom springs. It is too late to do anything about this.

5. If you go to the big central fish market near Tokyo and measure the radiation in the air, it registers at about 0.05 micro Sieverts – a little higher than normal level. But if you measure the radiation near the place where the instrument that measures the radiation of the fish is located, the level is two or three times greater (2013 measurement). Vegetables and fish from around the Tokyo area, even if they are irradiated, are not thrown away. This is because the level established by the Japanese Government for permissible radiation in food – which if exceeded the food must not be sold – is the same as the permissible level of radiation in low-level radioactive wastes. Which is to say, in Japan today, as the entire country has been contaminated, we have no choice but to put irradiated garbage on the dinner table. The distribution of irradiated food is also a problem. Food from near Fukushima will be sent to another prefecture, and then sent on, relabeled as produced in the second prefecture. In particular, food distributed by the major food companies, and food served in expensive restaurants, is almost never tested for radiation.

6. In Japan, the only radiation from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Reactors that is being measured is the radioactive cesium. However large amounts of strontium 90 and tritium are spreading all over Japan. Strontium and tritium’s radiation consists of beta rays, and are very difficult to measure. However both are extremely dangerous: strontium can cause leukemia, and tritium can cause chromosome disorder.

7. More dangerous still: in order, they say, to get rid of the pollution that has fallen over the wide area of Eastern Japan, they are scraping off the top layer of the soil, and putting it in plastic bags as garbage. Great mountains of these plastic bags, all weather-beaten, are sitting in fields in Eastern Japan subject of course to attack by heavy rain and typhoons. Eventually the plastic will split open and the contents will come spilling out. When that happens, there will be no place left to take them.

8. On 21 September, 2013 (again, as this letter was being composed) the newspaper Tokyo Shimbun reported that Tokyo Governor Naoki Inose said at a press conference that what Abe expressed to the IOC was his intention to get the situation under control. “It is not,” Inose said, “under control now.”

It’s a sad story, but this is the present situation of Japan and of Tokyo. I had loved the Japanese food and this land until the Fukushima accident occurred. But now…

My best wishes for your health and long life.

***Takashi Hirose*** *is the author of*[*Fukushima Meltdown: The World’s First Earthquake-Tsunami-Nuclear Disaster*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1468161253/counterpunchmaga)*(2011) available on Amazon both as a Kindle e-book and a Createspace on-demand book.*

- from **counterpunch, A Letter to All Young Athletes Who Dream of Coming to Tokyo in 2020;** [**Some Facts You Should Know About Fukushima**](http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/09/26/a-letter-to-all-young-athletes-who-dream-of-coming-to-tokyo-in-2020/print)



**Published on Thursday, October 24, 2013 by** [**Common Dreams**](http://www.commondreams.org)

**Fuel Removal From Fukushima's Reactor 4 Threatens 'Apocalyptic' Scenario**

In November, TEPCO set to begin to remove fuel rods whose radiation matches the fallout of 14,000 Hiroshima bombs

**- Andrea Germanos, staff writer**

An operation with potentially "apocalyptic" consequences is expected to begin in a little over [two weeks from now](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/10/23/national/tepco-eyes-fuel-removal-from-fukushima-reactor-4-pool-in-early-november/#.Umk9xySoHUU) - "as early as November 8" - at Fukushima's [damaged and sinking](http://www.ringoffireradio.com/2013/09/risky-repair-fukushima-spill-15000x-radiation-hiroshima-world-intervene/) Reactor 4, when plant operator TEPCO will attempt to remove over 1300 spent fuel rods holding the radiation equivalent of 14,000 Hiroshima bombs from a spent fuel storage tank perched on the reactor's upper floor.

Fukushima Reactor 4 While the Reactor 4 building itself did not suffer a meltdown, it did suffer a hydrogen explosion, is now tipping and sinking and has [zero ability to withstand another seismic event.](http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2012/05/04-0)

*The Japan Times* [explained](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/10/19/national/fukushima-2020-will-japan-be-able-to-keep-the-nuclear-situation-under-control/#.UmlQgySoHUU):

To remove the rods, TEPCO has erected a 273-ton mobile crane above the building that will be operated remotely from a separate room.

[...] spent fuel rods will be pulled from the racks they are stored in and inserted one by one into a heavy steel chamber while the assemblies are still under water. Once the chamber is removed from the pool and lowered to the ground, it will be transported to another pool in an undamaged building on the site for storage.

Under normal circumstances, such an operation would take little more than three months, but TEPCO is hoping to complete the complicated task within fiscal 2014.

A chorus of voices has been sounding alarm over the never-been-done-at-this-scale plan to [manually remove](http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/A-Mistake-Now-Could-Release-14000-Times-More-Radiation-than-Hiroshima.html) the 400 tons of spent fuel by TEPCO, who so far has been responsible for mishap after mishap in the ongoing crisis at the crippled nuclear plant.

Arnie Gundersen, a veteran U.S. nuclear engineer and director of Fairewinds Energy Education, [warned this summer](http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2013/08/14-6) that "They are going to have difficulty in removing a significant number of the rods," and said that "To jump to the conclusion that it is going to work just fine is quite a leap of logic."  Paul Gunter, MD, Director of the Reactor Oversight Project with Takoma Park, Md.-based [Beyond Nuclear](http://beyondnuclear.org), also sounded alarm on Thursday, telling *Common Dreams* in a statement that "Given the uncertainties of the condition and array of the hundreds of tons of nuclear  fuel assemblies, it will be a risky round of highly radioactive pickup sticks."  Gundersen [offered](http://enenews.com/gundersen-spent-fuel-rods-break-during-removal-process-fukushima-unit-4-racks-distorted-fuel-overheated-pool-boiled-suspects-will-be-stuck-long-long-time-audio) this analogy of the challenging process of removing the spent fuel rods:

If you think of a nuclear fuel rack as a pack of cigarettes, if you pull a cigarette straight up it will come out — but these racks have been distorted. Now when they go to pull the cigarette straight out, it’s going to likely break and release radioactive cesium and other gases, xenon and krypton, into the air. I suspect come November, December, January we’re going to hear that the building’s been evacuated, they’ve broke a fuel rod, the fuel rod is off-gassing. […]

I suspect we’ll have more airborne releases as they try to pull the fuel out. If they pull too hard, they’ll snap the fuel. I think the racks have been distorted, the fuel has overheated — the pool boiled – and the net effect is that it’s likely some of the fuel will be stuck in there for a long, long time.

*The Japan Times* adds:

Removing the fuel rods is a task usually assisted by computers that know their exact location down to the nearest millimeter. Working virtually blind in a highly radioactive environment, there is a risk the crane could drop or damage one of the rods — an accident that would heap even more misery onto the Tohoku region.

As long-time anti-nuclear activist Harvey Wasserman [explained](http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/10/01-4), the

Spent fuel rods must be kept cool at all times. If exposed to air, their zirconium alloy cladding will ignite, the rods will burn and huge quantities of radiation will be emitted. Should the rods touch each other, or should they crumble into a big enough pile, an explosion is possible.

"In the worst-case scenario," *RT* [adds](http://rt.com/news/fukushima-operation-spent-fuel-618/),

the pool could come crashing to the ground, dumping the rods together into a pile that could fission and cause an explosion many times worse than in March 2011.

Wasserman says that the plan is so risky it [requires a global take-over](http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/09/20-1), an urging Gunter also shared, stating that the "dangerous task should not be left to TEPCO but quickly involve the oversight and management of independent international experts."

Wasserman told *Common Dreams* that

The bring-down of the fuel rods from Fukushima Unit 4 may be the most dangerous engineering task ever undertaken.  Every indication is that TEPCO is completely incapable of doing it safely, or of reliably informing the global community as to what's actually happening.  There is no reason to believe the Japanese government could do much better.  This is a job that should only be undertaken by a dedicated team of the world's very best scientists and engineers, with access to all the funding that could be needed.

The potential radiation releases in this situation can only be described as apocalyptic.  The cesium alone would match the fallout of 14,000 Hiroshima bombs.  If the job is botched, radiation releases could force the evacuation of all humans from the site, and could cause electronic equipment to fail.  Humankind would be forced to stand helplessly by as billions of curies of deadly radiation pour into the air and the ocean.

As dire as Wasserman's warning sounds, it is echoed by fallout researcher Christina Consolo, who [told *RT*](http://rt.com/news/fukushima-apocalypse-fuel-removal-598/) that the worst case scenario could be "a true apocalypse." Gunter's warning was dire as well.

"Time is of the essence as we remain concerned that another earthquake could still topple the damaged reactor building and the nuclear waste storage pond up in its attic," he continued. "This could literally re-ignite the nuclear accident in the open atmosphere and inflame it into hemispheric proportions," said Gunter.

Wasserman says that given the gravity of the situation, the eyes of the world should be upon Fukushima:

This is a question that transcends being anti-nuclear.  The fate of the earth is at stake here and the whole world must be watching every move at that site from now on.  With 11,000 fuel rods scattered around the place, as a ceaseless flow of contaminated water poisoning our oceans, our very survival is on the line.

**Fukushima readies for dangerous operation to remove 400 tons of spent fuel**

Published time: October 23, 2013 19:34   
Edited time: October 24, 2013 11:53

[Get short URL](http://rt.com/news/fukushima-operation-spent-fuel-618/)



Contaminated water tanks at the Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant (AFP Photo / TEPCO)

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Trends

[Fukushima nuclear disaster](http://rt.com/trends/fukushima-nuclear-disaster/)

Tags

[Accident](http://rt.com/tags/accident/), [Health](http://rt.com/tags/health/), [Japan](http://rt.com/tags/japan/), [Nuclear](http://rt.com/tags/nuclear/)

Fukushima operator TEPCO is getting ready for its toughest and the most dangerous clean-up operation. In November it will try to remove 400 tons of spent fuel from plant’s Reactor No. 4. But even a little mistake may result in a new nuclear disaster.

The operation is scheduled to start in the beginning of November and be completed by around the end of 2014.

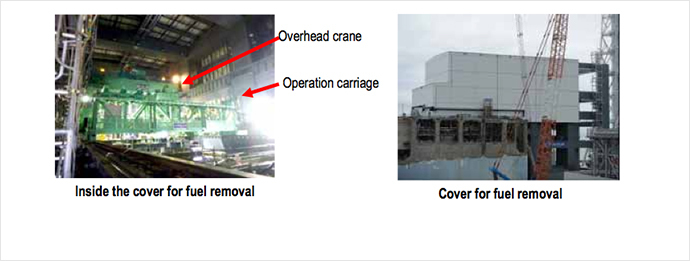
Under normal circumstances, the operation to remove all the fuel would take about 100 days. TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Co) initially planned to take two years, but reduced the schedule to one year in recognition of the urgency, as even a minor earthquake could trigger an uncontrolled fuel leak.

During this period TEPCO plans to carefully remove more than 1,300 used fuel rod assemblies, packing radiation 14,000 times the equivalent of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb, from their cooling pool.

The base of the pool where the fuel assemblies are situated is 18 meters above ground and the rods are 7 meters under the surface of the water.

TEPCO’s first task is to remove the debris from the Reactor No. 4 fuel pool.

Then, one by one, the fuel rods will be removed from the top store of the damaged building using a crane suspended above the crippled reactor.



Installation status of fuel removal cover of Unit 4 (Image from tepco.co.jp)

Previously a computer-controlled process, this time it has to be done completely manually. And this is what makes this removal operation extremely dangerous.

The fuel rods must be kept submerged and must not touch each other or break.

*“The operation to begin removing fuel from such a severely damaged pool has never been attempted before. The rods are unwieldy and very heavy, each one weighing two-thirds of a ton,”* fallout researcher Christina Consolo earlier [told RT](http://rt.com/news/fukushima-apocalypse-fuel-removal-598/).

Should the attempt fail, a mishandled rod could be exposed to air and catch fire, resulting in horrific quantities of radiation released into the atmosphere. The resulting radiation will be too great for the cooling pool to absorb as it simply has not been designed to do so.

In the worst-case scenario, the pool could come crashing to the ground, dumping the rods together into a pile that could fission and cause an explosion many times worse than in March 2011.

*“The worst-case scenario could play out in death to billions of people. A true apocalypse,”* Consolo said.

Reactor No. 4 contains 10 times more Cesium-137 than Chernobyl did. This lets scientists warn that in case of another nuclear disaster, it will be the beginning of the ultimate catastrophe of the world and the planet.

*“It will be one of the worst, but most important jobs anyone has ever had to do. And even if executed flawlessly, there are still many things that could go wrong,”* Consolo said.

The World Nuclear Report, released in July 2013, said *“the worst-case scenario”* will require evacuation of up to 10 million people within a 250-kilometer radius of Fukushima, including a significant part of Tokyo.

Although some experts are skeptical, TEPCO is confident the operation will be a success. Last year two fuel rods were successfully removed from the pool in a test operation, but back then rod assemblies were empty and posed a far smaller threat.

The operation will be just one installment in the decommissioning process for the plant, and is forecast to take about 40 years and cost $11 billion.

TEPCO, responsible for the clean-up, is struggling to cope with the aftermath of the nuclear disaster, but with the crisis over radiation-contaminated water at the plant, it has been criticized for its ad hoc response to the disaster. In August TEPCO pleaded for overseas help to contain the radioactive fallout, after 18 months of trying to control it internally.

The Japanese government was also ordered to take a more active role in controlling the overflow of radioactive water being flushed over the melted reactors in Units 1, 2 and 3 at the plant.

Three of the Fukushima plant’s nuclear reactors were damaged by an earthquake-triggered tsunami on March 11, 2011, which led to a nuclear disaster. The plant has been accumulating radioactive water ever since. The government imposed a 20-kilometer ‘no-go’ zone around the plant area.

And, in the “I’m fooling no one but myself” category:

**Japanese PM eats seafood caught off Fukushima**

**Japanese leader attempts to dispel fears over Fukushima fallout by sampling local seafood**



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) eats seafood landed by a test fishing operation following the Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident during his inspections at a fishing port in Soma, Fukushima prefecture  Photo: AFP

Julian Ryall in Tokyo

6:12AM BST 22 Oct 2013

Comments[9 Comments](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/10395434/Japanese-PM-eats-seafood-caught-off-Fukushima.html#disqus_thread)

Shinzo Abe, the Japanese prime minister, has tucked into a slice of octopus caught close to the Fukushima nuclear plant and declared local seafood to be "good and safe."

Mr Abe visited the town of Soma, 26 miles north of the crippled reactors, at the weekend as part of the government's efforts to convince domestic consumers and the rest of the world that Japanese seafood and produce can be eaten.

"We will work to wipe out the harmful rumours by giving out accurate information," he told a group of local residents before savouring the slice of octopus tentacle.

"I want everyone in the country to know they are good and safe," he declared of the seafood laid out by the local fishery cooperative.

Fishermen returned to the sea in late September on a trial basis, with their catches tested for radiation.

**Related Articles**

* [Radioactive water leaks from Fukushima](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/10392837/Radioactive-water-leaks-from-Fukushima-plant-after-heavy-rain.html)

21 Oct 2013

* [Japan launches anti-radiation underwear](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/10387921/Japan-launches-anti-radiation-underwear-after-Fukushima-crisis.html)

18 Oct 2013

The Japanese leader's efforts to dispel health concerns are an echo of John Gummer's famous public consumption of a beefburger at a boat show in Suffolk in 1990, the height of the BSE scare.

The then-agriculture minister demonstrated his faith in the safety of beef by also feeding his 4-year-old daughter, Cordelia, a burger.

Sampling local cuisine has long been a favourite way for politicians to express their confidence in produce, with President Barack Obama eating shrimp at a restaurant in Louisana after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 and Thaksin Shinawatra, the Thai prime minister, publically tucking into fried chicken during the bird flu scare of 2004.

With the ongoing crisis at the Fukushima plant, more Japanese politicians are being required to signal their conviction that radiation has not rendered all the local produce inedible.

Yukio Edano, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, was photographed eating strawberries from Iwaki City, just outside the 18-mile exclusion zone around the plant, a month after it was wrecked in the magnitude-9 earthquake and tsunami.

Even this latest stunt by the prime minister is unlikely to sway Japan's neighbours, with South Korea refusing to lift its ban on imports of seafood from seven prefectures close to the Fukushima plant, despite threats from Tokyo to take the case to the World Trade Organisation on the grounds that the ban is not based on science and is therefore discriminatory.



[**http://enenews.com/category/location/japan/page/2**](http://enenews.com/category/location/japan/page/2)

**09:27 PM EST on October 27th, 2013 |** [**7 comments**](http://enenews.com/film-young-fukushima-girl-douses-herself-gasoline-lights-cries-nuclear-disaster#comments)

[**Film: Young Fukushima girl douses herself with gasoline, then lights it — Asks “Why did this nuclear disaster happen to us?” whenever she cries (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/film-young-fukushima-girl-douses-herself-gasoline-lights-cries-nuclear-disaster)

**03:31 PM EST on October 27th, 2013 |** [**34 comments**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-farmer-sees-16-of-his-30-horses-die-suddenly-this-year-mainly-young-ones-no-disease-no-parasites-higb-cesium-levels-my-daughter-tried-to-commit-suicide-do-you-think-its-really#comments)

[**Fukushima farmer sees 16 of his 30 horses die suddenly this year, mainly young ones — No disease, no parasitic worms, high cesium levels — “Daughter tried to commit suicide… Do you think it’s really okay with this situation in Japan?” (PHOTOS)**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-farmer-sees-16-of-his-30-horses-die-suddenly-this-year-mainly-young-ones-no-disease-no-parasites-higb-cesium-levels-my-daughter-tried-to-commit-suicide-do-you-think-its-really)

**11:17 AM EST on October 27th, 2013 |** [**42 comments**](http://enenews.com/nytimes-experts-fukushima-is-having-bigger-effect-on-environment-than-we-expected-we-dont-know-whats-happening-huge-spike-in-radioactive-releases-during-2013-areas-blanketed-in-new-conta#comments)

[**NYTimes Experts: Fukushima is having bigger effect on environment than we expected, we don’t know what’s happening — Radioactive releases from plant spiking this year — “Worrisome problems”**](http://enenews.com/nytimes-experts-fukushima-is-having-bigger-effect-on-environment-than-we-expected-we-dont-know-whats-happening-huge-spike-in-radioactive-releases-during-2013-areas-blanketed-in-new-conta)

**12:30 AM EST on October 27th, 2013 |** [**289 comments**](http://enenews.com/nothing-like-this-has-ever-been-attempted-yale-professor-all-of-humanity-will-be-threatened-for-1000s-of-years-if-rods-in-unit-4-pool-touch-during-removal-process-tepco-not-clear#comments)

[**“Nothing like this has ever been attempted” — Yale Professor: “All of humanity will be threatened for 1000s of years” if rods in Unit 4 pool touch and have nuclear reaction during removal process — Tepco: “Not clear” if fuel is already damaged**](http://enenews.com/nothing-like-this-has-ever-been-attempted-yale-professor-all-of-humanity-will-be-threatened-for-1000s-of-years-if-rods-in-unit-4-pool-touch-during-removal-process-tepco-not-clear)

**03:58 PM EST on October 26th, 2013 |** [**22 comments**](http://enenews.com/tv-water-released-at-fukushima-plant-as-typhoon-passes-off-coast-3-quakes-reported-up-to-magnitude-5-5-govt-expert-possibility-aftershocks-around-magnitude-7-will-occur-once-in-a-while#comments)

[**TV: Water released at Fukushima plant as typhoon passes off coast — Gov’t Expert: Possible aftershocks around M7 will occur “once in a while” — 3 quakes reported, up to M5.5**](http://enenews.com/tv-water-released-at-fukushima-plant-as-typhoon-passes-off-coast-3-quakes-reported-up-to-magnitude-5-5-govt-expert-possibility-aftershocks-around-magnitude-7-will-occur-once-in-a-while)

**11:27 AM EST on October 26th, 2013 |** [**59 comments**](http://enenews.com/nrc-plutonium-release-fukushima-reactors-fuel-pools-experts-plutonium-isotopes-need-be-assessment-radioactive-releases#comments)

[**US Gov’t: Plutonium is from Fukushima reactors, not fuel pools — Experts: Plutonium needs to be in U.N. assessment of radioactive releases**](http://enenews.com/nrc-plutonium-release-fukushima-reactors-fuel-pools-experts-plutonium-isotopes-need-be-assessment-radioactive-releases)

**09:36 AM EST on October 26th, 2013 |** [**37 comments**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-documents-discuss-fuel-severely-damaged-cooling-pool-illustrations-deformed-leaking-fuels-photo#comments)

[**Fukushima documents discuss “fuel that is severely damaged” inside cooling pool — Illustrations of “deformed or leaking fuels” (PHOTO)**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-documents-discuss-fuel-severely-damaged-cooling-pool-illustrations-deformed-leaking-fuels-photo)

**02:06 AM EST on October 26th, 2013 |** [**63 comments**](http://enenews.com/tepco-publishes-images-of-land-collapse-due-to-typhoon-photos#comments)

[**Tepco publishes images of land ‘collapse’ at Fukushima nuclear plant due to recent typhoon (PHOTOS)**](http://enenews.com/tepco-publishes-images-of-land-collapse-due-to-typhoon-photos)

**05:06 PM EST on October 25th, 2013 |** [**88 comments**](http://enenews.com/footage-shows-minute-long-quake-shaking-fukushima-nuclear-plant-includes-broadcasts-from-ctv-aol-rt-official-it-was-fairly-big-and-rattled-quite-a-bit-videos#comments)

[**Footage shows minute-long quake shaking Fukushima nuclear plant — Includes broadcasts from CTV, NHK, AOL, RT — Fukushima Official: “It was fairly big, and rattled quite a bit” (VIDEOS)**](http://enenews.com/footage-shows-minute-long-quake-shaking-fukushima-nuclear-plant-includes-broadcasts-from-ctv-aol-rt-official-it-was-fairly-big-and-rattled-quite-a-bit-videos)

**02:47 PM EST on October 25th, 2013 |** [**120 comments**](http://enenews.com/ap-7-3-magnitude-quake-rocks-japan-fukushima-tsunami-warning-triggered-tepco-orders-workers-near-coast-to-move-to-higher-ground#comments)

[**AP: 7.3-magnitude quake rocks Japan — Fukushima tsunami warning triggered — Tepco orders workers near coast to move to higher ground**](http://enenews.com/ap-7-3-magnitude-quake-rocks-japan-fukushima-tsunami-warning-triggered-tepco-orders-workers-near-coast-to-move-to-higher-ground)

**10:03 AM EST on October 25th, 2013 |** [**54 comments**](http://enenews.com/ny-times-worrisome-evidence-at-fukushima-plant-latest-releases-appear-to-be-carrying-much-more-contaminated-water-than-before-into-pacific-expert-no-precedent-for-whats-happening#comments)

[**NY Times: “Worrisome” evidence at Fukushima plant — “Latest releases appear to be carrying much more contaminated water than before into Pacific” — Expert: “No precedent for what’s happening… we’re on untrodden ground”**](http://enenews.com/ny-times-worrisome-evidence-at-fukushima-plant-latest-releases-appear-to-be-carrying-much-more-contaminated-water-than-before-into-pacific-expert-no-precedent-for-whats-happening)

**06:04 AM EST on October 25th, 2013 |** [**95 comments**](http://enenews.com/reuters-special-workers-are-tricked-into-being-on-front-lines-at-fukushima-plant-you-cant-escape-they-kept-me-in-a-shed-theres-nowhere-else-to-go-everyone-is-s#comments)

[**Reuters Special: Workers are tricked into being on front lines at Fukushima plant — “You can’t escape” — “They kept me in a shed” — “There’s nowhere else to go… Everyone is stuck” — “You’re brainwashed” — “After a few days, they’re thrown away” (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/reuters-special-workers-are-tricked-into-being-on-front-lines-at-fukushima-plant-you-cant-escape-they-kept-me-in-a-shed-theres-nowhere-else-to-go-everyone-is-s)

**08:08 PM EST on October 24th, 2013 |** [**46 comments**](http://enenews.com/weather-channel-typhoon-francisco-merging-with-cold-front-high-threat-of-mudslides-floods-from-heavy-rainfall-another-wave-developing-in-pacific-video#comments)

[**Weather Channel: Typhoon Francisco “merging with cold front” — High threat of mudslides, floods from heavy rainfall — Another wave developing in Pacific (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/weather-channel-typhoon-francisco-merging-with-cold-front-high-threat-of-mudslides-floods-from-heavy-rainfall-another-wave-developing-in-pacific-video)

**09:57 AM EST on October 24th, 2013 |** [**95 comments**](http://enenews.com/radiation-readings-spiking-record-levels-all-around-fukushima-plant#comments)

[**Radiation readings spiking to record levels all around Fukushima plant**](http://enenews.com/radiation-readings-spiking-record-levels-all-around-fukushima-plant)

**08:55 AM EST on October 24th, 2013 |** [**43 comments**](http://enenews.com/scientists-spheres-radioactive-material-fukushima-reported-first-time-ball-like-particles-composed-cesium-iron-zinc-solid-insoluble-water-impact-human-health-be-examined-photos#comments)

[**Scientists: ‘Spheres’ of radioactive material from Fukushima reported for first time — Ball-like particles composed of cesium, iron, zinc — Solid and insoluble in water — Impact on human health needs to be examined (PHOTOS)**](http://enenews.com/scientists-spheres-radioactive-material-fukushima-reported-first-time-ball-like-particles-composed-cesium-iron-zinc-solid-insoluble-water-impact-human-health-be-examined-photos)

**10:06 PM EST on October 23rd, 2013 |** [**61 comments**](http://enenews.com/tv-powerful-typhoon-bearing-down-on-japan-prolonged-heavy-rainfall-for-fukushima-and-the-tanks-are-full-potentially-devastating-interaction-with-typhoon-lekima-now-a-category-5-v#comments)

[**TV: Powerful typhoon bearing down on Japan — Prolonged heavy rainfall for Fukushima, and “the tanks are full” — “Potentially devastating interaction” with Typhoon Lekima, now a Category 5 (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/tv-powerful-typhoon-bearing-down-on-japan-prolonged-heavy-rainfall-for-fukushima-and-the-tanks-are-full-potentially-devastating-interaction-with-typhoon-lekima-now-a-category-5-v)

**03:36 PM EST on October 23rd, 2013 |** [**116 comments**](http://enenews.com/scientific-reports-remarkable-location-where-plutonium-from-fukushima-reactor-is-suspected-to-have-landed-area-is-outside-the-main-strip-of-contamination-making-it-even-more-unexpected#comments)

[**Scientific Reports: It’s “remarkable” where plutonium from Fukushima reactor is suspected to have been found — “Even more unexpected” that it’s located outside main strip of contamination — Need to assess consequences for public of a release of plutonium-rich hot particles (PHOTO)**](http://enenews.com/scientific-reports-remarkable-location-where-plutonium-from-fukushima-reactor-is-suspected-to-have-landed-area-is-outside-the-main-strip-of-contamination-making-it-even-more-unexpected)

**11:21 AM EST on October 23rd, 2013 |** [**55 comments**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-workers-speak-out-we-hide-accidents-at-plant-cnn-health-is-suffering-cbs-radioactive-materials-just-pour-right-in-after-cleanup-videos#comments)

[**Fukushima Workers Speak Out: We hide accidents at plant — CNN: Health is suffering — CBS: Radioactive materials “just pour right in” after cleanup (VIDEOS)**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-workers-speak-out-we-hide-accidents-at-plant-cnn-health-is-suffering-cbs-radioactive-materials-just-pour-right-in-after-cleanup-videos)

**09:39 AM EST on October 23rd, 2013 |** [**23 comments**](http://enenews.com/nuclear-expert-one-hopes-structures-fukushima-daiichi-will-hold-during-typhoon-risk-severe-spread-contamination-video#comments)

[**Nuclear Expert: Concern about structures at Fukushima plant holding up during typhoon — Risk of much, much more severe spread of contamination (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/nuclear-expert-one-hopes-structures-fukushima-daiichi-will-hold-during-typhoon-risk-severe-spread-contamination-video)

**08:44 AM EST on October 23rd, 2013 |** [**21 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-times-concern-mounting-at-fukushima-big-typhoons-could-collide-francisco-to-be-unable-to-move-due-to-lekima-says-forecast-officials-warn-of-landslides-flash-flooding-photo#comments)

[**Japan Times: Concern mounts at Fukushima, big typhoons may collide — Francisco to be “unable to move” due to Lekima, says forecast — High threat of landslides, flash floods (PHOTO)**](http://enenews.com/japan-times-concern-mounting-at-fukushima-big-typhoons-could-collide-francisco-to-be-unable-to-move-due-to-lekima-says-forecast-officials-warn-of-landslides-flash-flooding-photo)

**02:38 AM EST on October 23rd, 2013 |** [**79 comments**](http://enenews.com/sailors-shocking-pacific-journey-goes-viral-smashes-record-picked-up-by-the-guardian-usa-today-many-more-all-fail-to-mention-ongoing-crisis-at-fukushima-by-far-worlds-largest-release-of#comments)

[**Sailor’s horrific Pacific journey goes viral, smashes record — Picked up by The Guardian, USA Today, many more… All fail to mention ongoing crisis at Fukushima, by far world’s largest release of radioactivity into ocean**](http://enenews.com/sailors-shocking-pacific-journey-goes-viral-smashes-record-picked-up-by-the-guardian-usa-today-many-more-all-fail-to-mention-ongoing-crisis-at-fukushima-by-far-worlds-largest-release-of)

**09:04 PM EST on October 22nd, 2013 |** [**38 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-journalist-melted-nuclear-fuel-sank-into-the-ground-under-fukushima-reactors-the-irradiated-groundwater-flows-into-ocean-through-sea-bottom-springs-its-too-late-to-do-anything-about-t#comments)

[**Japan Journalist: Melted nuclear fuel sank into the ground under Fukushima reactors — Irradiated groundwater is flowing into ocean through sea-bottom springs, it’s too late to do anything about this (PHOTO)**](http://enenews.com/japan-journalist-melted-nuclear-fuel-sank-into-the-ground-under-fukushima-reactors-the-irradiated-groundwater-flows-into-ocean-through-sea-bottom-springs-its-too-late-to-do-anything-about-t)

[**Japan Study: “Contamination levels are possibly higher than Chernobyl” from Fukushima disaster — Human health must be carefully and continuously monitored — Highly contaminated river soil in Tokyo metropolitan area**](http://enenews.com/study-contamination-levels-from-fukushima-are-possibly-higher-than-chernobyl-highly-contaminated-river-soil-in-tokyo-metropolitan-area-human-health-must-be-continuously-monitored)

**03:36 PM EST on October 22nd, 2013 |** [**14 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-diplomat-concern-fuel-rods-in-unit-4-pool-are-damaged-have-they-moved-transfer-process-could-take-decades-not-months#comments)

[**Japan Diplomat: Concern fuel rods in Unit 4 pool are damaged — “Have they moved”? — Transfer process could go on for decades, not months**](http://enenews.com/japan-diplomat-concern-fuel-rods-in-unit-4-pool-are-damaged-have-they-moved-transfer-process-could-take-decades-not-months)

**01:46 PM EST on October 22nd, 2013 |** [**73 comments**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-plant-braces-for-a-super-typhoon-officials-admit-tough-situation-could-occur-more-workers-may-be-drafted-in-cesium-levels-already-spiking-in-ocean#comments)

[**Fukushima plant “braces for super-typhoon” — Officials admit “tough situation” could occur — More workers may be drafted in — Cesium levels already spiking in ocean**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-plant-braces-for-a-super-typhoon-officials-admit-tough-situation-could-occur-more-workers-may-be-drafted-in-cesium-levels-already-spiking-in-ocean)

**08:59 AM EST on October 22nd, 2013 |** [**79 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-cancer-surgeon-fear-whats-after-fukushima-disaster-terrible-happened-people-dont-realize-all#comments)

[**AP: Japan cancer surgeon in fear of what’s to come after Fukushima disaster — “A terrible thing has happened, but people don’t realize it at all”**](http://enenews.com/japan-cancer-surgeon-fear-whats-after-fukushima-disaster-terrible-happened-people-dont-realize-all)

**05:06 AM EST on October 22nd, 2013 |** [**53 comments**](http://enenews.com/washington-post-its-an-environmental-disaster-radioactivity-levels-hundreds-of-times-above-normal-in-pacific-nhk-countries-worried-about-fukushima-leaks-govt-wants-testing-up-to-3000-km-of#comments)

[**Washington Post: It’s an environmental disaster, radioactivity levels in ocean hundreds of times above normal — NHK: Countries around Pacific worried about ongoing Fukushima leaks, gov’t wants testing up to 3,000 km offshore (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/washington-post-its-an-environmental-disaster-radioactivity-levels-hundreds-of-times-above-normal-in-pacific-nhk-countries-worried-about-fukushima-leaks-govt-wants-testing-up-to-3000-km-of)

**06:33 PM EST on October 21st, 2013 |** [**109 comments**](http://enenews.com/nuclear-engineer-pyrophoric-fire-already-occurred-fukushima-unit-4-spent-fuel-pool-explosion-possibly-due-rods-being-covered-water-audio#comments)

[**Nuclear Engineer: Pyrophoric fire may have already occurred at Fukushima Unit 4 spent fuel pool — Explosion possibly due to rods not being covered with water (AUDIO)**](http://enenews.com/nuclear-engineer-pyrophoric-fire-already-occurred-fukushima-unit-4-spent-fuel-pool-explosion-possibly-due-rods-being-covered-water-audio)

**03:20 PM EST on October 21st, 2013 |** [**19 comments**](http://enenews.com/new-breaches-at-fukushima-flowing-into-pacific-ny-times-most-likelty-from-radioactive-particles-scattered-on-the-ground-possibly-by-the-explosions-la-times-already-60-billion-becquerels-goi#comments)

[**New breaches at Fukushima flowing into Pacific? NY Times: It’s most likely “radioactive particles scattered on ground, possibly by explosions” — LA Times: Already 60 billion becquerels going directly into ocean every day (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/new-breaches-at-fukushima-flowing-into-pacific-ny-times-most-likelty-from-radioactive-particles-scattered-on-the-ground-possibly-by-the-explosions-la-times-already-60-billion-becquerels-goi)

**01:59 PM EST on October 21st, 2013 |** [**50 comments**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-workers-there-was-a-collapse-at-plant-due-to-typhoon-not-released-by-tepco-worry-that-upcoming-storm-to-cause-more-damage#comments)

[**Fukushima Workers: There was a collapse at plant due to typhoon — Not revealed by Tepco — Worry that upcoming storm to cause more damage**](http://enenews.com/fukushima-workers-there-was-a-collapse-at-plant-due-to-typhoon-not-released-by-tepco-worry-that-upcoming-storm-to-cause-more-damage)

**12:50 PM EST on October 21st, 2013 |** [**51 comments**](http://enenews.com/powerful-typhoon-francisco-on-track-to-hit-fukushima-typhoon-lekima-developing-in-pacific-concern-storms-may-collide-its-called-the-fujiwara-effect-both-typhoons-could-hit-east#comments)

[**Powerful Typhoon Francisco on track for Fukushima — Typhoon Lekima develops in Pacific — Concern storms may collide, “It’s called the Fujiwara effect” — Both could hit east coast of Japan later in week (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/powerful-typhoon-francisco-on-track-to-hit-fukushima-typhoon-lekima-developing-in-pacific-concern-storms-may-collide-its-called-the-fujiwara-effect-both-typhoons-could-hit-east)

**11:31 AM EST on October 21st, 2013 |** [**26 comments**](http://enenews.com/la-times-plutonium-having-melted-and-dropping-somewhere-is-suspected-to-be-causing-contamination-of-underground-water-says-japan-nuclear-professor#comments)

[**LA Times: “Plutonium having melted and dropping somewhere” is suspected to be causing contamination of underground water at Fukushima -Japan nuclear professor**](http://enenews.com/la-times-plutonium-having-melted-and-dropping-somewhere-is-suspected-to-be-causing-contamination-of-underground-water-says-japan-nuclear-professor)

**10:43 AM EST on October 21st, 2013 |** [**44 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-times-plague-of-radioactive-water-from-fukushima-will-need-monitoring-for-next-100-years-maybe-even-longer-wsj-alarm-over-recent-tepco-alert-it-could-be-quite-bad-yttrium-at-200000#comments)

[**Japan Times: “Plague of radioactive water” from Fukushima; Will need monitoring for next 100 years, maybe even longer — WSJ: Alarm over recent Tepco alert, could be quite bad; Yttrium at 200,000 Bq/liter in groundwater**](http://enenews.com/japan-times-plague-of-radioactive-water-from-fukushima-will-need-monitoring-for-next-100-years-maybe-even-longer-wsj-alarm-over-recent-tepco-alert-it-could-be-quite-bad-yttrium-at-200000)

**03:28 PM EST on October 19th, 2013 |** [**118 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-times-the-great-unknown-is-where-did-nuclear-fuel-go-after-melt-through-at-3-fukushima-reactors-official-expert-humans-may-have-to-go-look-for-corium-after-raising-limits-for-radiati#comments)

[**Japan Times: “The great unknown” — Where will nuclear fuel be found after “melt-through” at 3 Fukushima reactors? Official Expert: Humans may have to hunt for corium after raising limits on radiation exposure**](http://enenews.com/japan-times-the-great-unknown-is-where-did-nuclear-fuel-go-after-melt-through-at-3-fukushima-reactors-official-expert-humans-may-have-to-go-look-for-corium-after-raising-limits-for-radiati)

**12:45 PM EST on October 19th, 2013 |** [**43 comments**](http://enenews.com/gravest-situation-since-the-2011-fukushima-accident-nuclear-expert-emergency-effort-is-needed-at-plant-i-cant-make-out-just-why-the-japanese-are-reluctant-to-take-strong-measures#comments)

[**“Gravest situation since 2011 Fukushima accident” — Nuclear Expert: Emergency effort is needed at plant; “I can’t make out just why the Japanese are reluctant to take strong measures”**](http://enenews.com/gravest-situation-since-the-2011-fukushima-accident-nuclear-expert-emergency-effort-is-needed-at-plant-i-cant-make-out-just-why-the-japanese-are-reluctant-to-take-strong-measures)

**10:29 AM EST on October 19th, 2013 |** [**144 comments**](http://enenews.com/sailor-after-we-left-japan-it-felt-as-if-the-ocean-itself-was-dead-nothing-alive-for-over-3000-miles-no-longer-saw-turtles-dolphins-sharks-birds-saw-one-whale-it-appeared-to-be-hel#comments)

[**Sailor: “After we left Japan, it felt as if the ocean itself was dead” — Nothing alive for over 3,000 miles — No longer saw turtles, dolphins, sharks, birds — Saw one whale, it appeared helpless with big tumor on head**](http://enenews.com/sailor-after-we-left-japan-it-felt-as-if-the-ocean-itself-was-dead-nothing-alive-for-over-3000-miles-no-longer-saw-turtles-dolphins-sharks-birds-saw-one-whale-it-appeared-to-be-hel)

**08:29 AM EST on October 19th, 2013 |** [**106 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-professor-dangerous-situation-other-countries-gundersen-govt-adequate-solution-crisis-fukushima-fear-finding-bad-really-plant-video#comments)

[**Japan Professor: It’s such a dangerous situation for other countries — Gundersen: Gov’t does not want an adequate solution for crisis at Fukushima; Fear of it being found out just how bad things really are at plant? (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/japan-professor-dangerous-situation-other-countries-gundersen-govt-adequate-solution-crisis-fukushima-fear-finding-bad-really-plant-video)

**12:04 AM EST on October 19th, 2013 |** [**17 comments**](http://enenews.com/super-typhoon-on-course-for-japan-winds-up-to-190-mph-could-soon-be-category-5-storm-may-follow-typhoon-wiphas-path-developed-in-a-similar-area-video#comments)

[**Super typhoon on course for Japan — Winds up to 190 mph, could soon be Category 5 storm — “May follow Typhoon Wipha’s path” … “Developed in a similar area” (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/super-typhoon-on-course-for-japan-winds-up-to-190-mph-could-soon-be-category-5-storm-may-follow-typhoon-wiphas-path-developed-in-a-similar-area-video)

**10:19 PM EST on October 18th, 2013 |** [**31 comments**](http://enenews.com/tepco-admits-radiation-levels-in-groundwater-are-soaring-at-fukushima-strontium-readings-spike-6500-fold-in-one-day-video#comments)

[**Tepco admits “radiation levels in groundwater are soaring” at Fukushima — “Strontium readings spike 6,500-fold in one day” (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/tepco-admits-radiation-levels-in-groundwater-are-soaring-at-fukushima-strontium-readings-spike-6500-fold-in-one-day-video)

**07:03 PM EST on October 17th, 2013 |** [**130 comments**](http://enenews.com/alert-top-level-japan-official-publicly-suggests-multiple-fukushima-reactors-are-leaking-directly-into-the-sea-its-not-mixing-with-groundwater-and-getting-diluted-expert-contamination-f#comments)

[**Alert: Top Japan nuclear official suggests Fukushima reactors “leaking directly into sea”… not mixing with groundwater and getting diluted — Expert: Contamination flowing from plant will be carried away to North America’s west coast**](http://enenews.com/alert-top-level-japan-official-publicly-suggests-multiple-fukushima-reactors-are-leaking-directly-into-the-sea-its-not-mixing-with-groundwater-and-getting-diluted-expert-contamination-f)

**02:13 PM EST on October 17th, 2013 |** [**95 comments**](http://enenews.com/tv-nuclear-report-warns-of-apocalyptic-scenario-at-fukushima-next-month-fuel-assemblies-may-have-been-damaged-at-unit-4-ambassador-this-could-one-day-be-considered-start-of-the-ultimate#comments)

[**TV: Nuclear report warns of apocalyptic scenario at Fukushima in weeks ahead — Ambassador: This could one day be considered start of “the ultimate catastrophe of the world and planet” — Tepco: It’s “under control” (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/tv-nuclear-report-warns-of-apocalyptic-scenario-at-fukushima-next-month-fuel-assemblies-may-have-been-damaged-at-unit-4-ambassador-this-could-one-day-be-considered-start-of-the-ultimate)

**08:44 AM EST on October 17th, 2013 |** [**59 comments**](http://enenews.com/tv-typhoon-appears-to-have-affected-fukushima-daiichi-plant-giant-spike-in-radioactivity-seen-after-impact-of-wipha-suspected-of-causing-high-levels-of-strontium-to-flow-into-pacific-ocean#comments)

[**TV: “Typhoon appears to have affected Fukushima Daiichi plant” — Giant spike in radioactivity after #Wipha — Suspected of causing high levels of strontium to flow into Pacific (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/tv-typhoon-appears-to-have-affected-fukushima-daiichi-plant-giant-spike-in-radioactivity-seen-after-impact-of-wipha-suspected-of-causing-high-levels-of-strontium-to-flow-into-pacific-ocean)

**10:52 PM EST on October 16th, 2013 |** [**124 comments**](http://enenews.com/japan-journalist-plutonium-and-uranium-escaped-from-fukushima-reactors-as-a-gas-temperature-was-9000of-cant-be-detected-by-a-geiger-counter-children-must-be-evacuated-yet-nothing-is-done-t#comments)

[**Japan Journalist: Plutonium escaped Fukushima reactors as gas, it was a colossal 9,000ºF inside — Can’t be detected with Geiger counter — Terrible things are looming for the children, they must be evacuated yet nothing’s done… This is a “criminal nation” — I’m worried (VIDEO)**](http://enenews.com/japan-journalist-plutonium-and-uranium-escaped-from-fukushima-reactors-as-a-gas-temperature-was-9000of-cant-be-detected-by-a-geiger-counter-children-must-be-evacuated-yet-nothing-is-done-t)

**06:03 PM EST on October 16th, 2013 |** [**87 comments**](http://enenews.com/larger-calamity-horizon-fukushima-potential-greater-catastrophe-work-begins-plant-building-failures-will-occur-future-problems-solved-audio#comments)

[**“It’s a time bomb and clock’s still ticking” — Ex-Fukushima Worker: I’m scared of collapse at plant, “buildings are in a very bad state” — Gundersen: “Building failures” will occur in future if problems not solved (VIDEOS)**](http://enenews.com/larger-calamity-horizon-fukushima-potential-greater-catastrophe-work-begins-plant-building-failures-will-occur-future-problems-solved-audio)

**Plummeting morale at Fukushima Daiichi as nuclear cleanup takes its toll**

Staff on the frontline of operation plagued by health problems and fearful about the future, insiders say

* [Justin McCurry](http://www.theguardian.com/profile/justinmccurry) in Fukushima
* [The Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian), Tuesday 15 October 2013 11.15 EDT



Workers wearing protective suits and masks constructing water tanks at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Photograph: Issei Kato/Reuters

Dressed in a hazardous materials suit, full-face mask and hard hat, [Japan](http://www.theguardian.com/world/japan)'s prime minister, Shinzo Abe, left his audience in no doubt: "The future of Japan," he said, "rests on your shoulders. I am counting on you."

Abe's exhortation, delivered during a recent visit to the [Fukushima](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/fukushima) Daiichi [nuclear power](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/nuclearpower) plant, was only heard by a small group of men inside the plant's emergency control room. But it was directed at almost 6,000 more: the technicians and engineers, truck drivers and builders who, almost three years after the plant suffered a triple meltdown, remain on the frontline of the world's most dangerous industrial cleanup.

Yet as the scale of the challenge has become clearer with every new accident and radiation leak, the men working inside the plant are suffering from plummeting morale, health problems and anxiety about the future, according to insiders interviewed by the Guardian.

Even now, at the start of a decommissioning operation that is expected to last 40 years, the plant faces a shortage of workers qualified to manage the dangerous work that lies ahead.

The hazards faced by the nearly 900 employees of Tokyo Electric Power [Tepco] and about 5,000 workers hired by a network of contractors and sub-contractors were underlined this month when [six men were doused with contaminated water](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/09/fukushima-workers-radioactive-leak-water) at a desalination facility.

The men, who were wearing protective clothing, suffered no ill health effects in the incident, according to Tepco, but their brush with danger was a sign that the cleanup is entering its most precarious stage since the meltdown in March 2011.

Commenting on the leak, the head of Japan's nuclear regulator, Shunichi Tanaka, told reporters: "Mistakes are often linked to morale. People usually don't make silly, careless mistakes when they're motivated and working in a positive environment. The lack of it, I think, may be related to the recent problems."

Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, wearing a red helmet, during a tour of the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Photograph: AP

The radiation spill was the latest in a string of serious water and radiation leaks, which have raised fears over the workers' state of mind – and Tepco's ability to continue the cleanup alone.

According to sources with knowledge of the plant and health professionals who make regular visits, the slew of bad news is sapping morale and causing concern, as the public and international community increase pressure on Japan to show demonstrable progress in cleaning up the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

"Very little has changed at Fukushima Daiichi in the past six months," said Jun Shigemura, a lecturer in the psychiatry department at the National Defence Medical College who heads of a team of psychologists that counsels Fukushima plant workers. "Tepco is doing its best to improve matters, but you can see that the situation is severe."

Shigemura is most concerned about the 70% of Tepco workers at Fukushima Daiichi who were also forced to evacuate their homes by the meltdown. They have yet to come to terms with that loss and many live away from their families in makeshift accommodation near the plant.

"They were traumatised by the tsunami and the reactor explosions and had no idea how much they had been irradiated," Shigemura said. "That was the acute effect but now they are suffering from the chronic effects, such as depression, loss of motivation and issues with alcohol."

Their anxiety is compounded by uncertainty over the future of their embattled employer. Tepco is coming under mounting pressure to resolve the worsening water crisis at Fukushima Daiichi, which recently prompted the government to step in with half a billion dollars (£312m) to help contain the build-up of toxic water.

Its ability to stem the water leaks by the time Tokyo hosts the Olympics in 2020 – as promised by Abe – could be hampered by a looming labour shortage.

As Tepco was reducing costs and attempting to calm public anger over its handling of the crisis, it imposed a 20% pay cut for all employees in 2011. From a total workforce of 37,000, 1,286 people left the firm, between April 2011 and June this year. The firm did not hire any employees in fiscal 2012 and 2013.

The utility plans to take on 331 employees next April, according to Mayumi Yoshida, a Tepco spokeswoman. "[The employment] system will change so it will be easier for talented employees to gain promotion and for unproductive employees to be demoted," she said.

But there is little the firm can do about the departure of experienced workers, forced to leave after reaching their radiation exposure limit.

Tepco documents show that between March 2011 and July this year, 138 employees reached the 100-millisievert [mSv] threshold; another 331 had been exposed to between 75 mSv and 100 mSv, meaning their days at the plant are numbered. Those nearing their dose limit have reportedly been moved to other sites, or asked to take time off, so they can return to work at Fukushima Daiichi at a later date.

Some workers have left because of exhaustion and stress, while others have decided to find work closer to their displaced wives and children.

"They are less motivated and are worried about continuing to work for a firm that might not exist in a decade from now," Shigemura said.

Tepco employees wait for a bus at J Village, a football training complex now serving as an operation base for those battling Japan's nuclear disaster. Photograph: Reuters

Workers who have stayed on do so in the knowledge that they risk damaging their health through prolonged exposure to radiation and in accidents of the kind that occurred this week.

Earlier this year, Tepco said that 1,973 workers, including those employed by contractors and subcontractors, had estimated thyroid radiation doses in excess of 100 mSv, the level at which many physicians agree the risk of developing cancer begins to rise.

"These workers may show a tiny increased risk of cancer over their lifetimes," said Gerry Thomas, professor of molecular pathology at Imperial College, London University. "One hundred millisieverts is the dose we use as a cut-off to say we can see a significant effect on the cancer rate in very large epidemiology studies. The numbers have to be large because the individual increase is minuscule."

But she added: "I would be far more worried about these workers smoking or feeling under stress due to the fear of what radiation might do to them. That is much more likely to have an effect on any person's health."

While Thomas and other experts have cautioned against reaching hasty conclusions about a possible rise in thyroid cancer among Fukushima Daiichi workers, there is little doubt that their punishing work schedule, performed under the international spotlight, is taking a toll on their health.

"I'm particularly worried about depression and alcoholism," said Takeshi Tanigawa, a professor in the department of public health at Ehime University in western Japan. "I've seen high levels of physical distress and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder."

Many of the casual labourers employed by subcontractors live in cheap accommodation in places such as Yumoto, a hot-spring resort south of the exclusion zone around the plant. The number of workers has declined in the past year amid complaints from hoteliers and inn-keepers about drink-fuelled fights. These days, more seem to prefer the bars and commercial sex establishments of nearby Onahama port.

A 42-year-old contract worker, who asked not be named, confirmed that alcohol abuse had become a problem among workers. "Lots of men I know drink heavily in the evening and come to work with the shakes the next day. I know of several who worked with hangovers during the summer and collapsed with heatstroke."

"There isn't much communication between workers. People want to look after number one. Newcomers are looked down on by their colleagues and some don't really know how to do their jobs."

Another worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had seen hungover colleagues collapse with heatstroke just minutes after beginning work.

Tepco's logo at its headquarters in Tokyo. From a workforce of 37,000, 1,286 people left the firm between April 2011 and June this year. Photograph: Yuriko Nakao/Reuters

In the long term, Tepco and its partner companies will struggle to find enough people with specialist knowledge to see decommissioning through to the end, according to Yukiteru Naka, a retired engineer with General Electric who helped build some of Fukushima Daiichi's reactors.

"There aren't enough trained people at Fukushima Daiichi even now," he said. "For Tepco, money is the top priority – nuclear technology and safety come second and third. That's why the accident happened. The management insists on keeping the company going. They think about shareholders, bank lenders and the government, but not the people of Fukushima."

Naka, who runs a firm in Iwaki, just south of Fukushima Daiichi, that provides technical assistance to Tepco, said the lack of expertise afflicts the utility and general contractors with a pivotal role in the cleanup.

"Most of their employees have no experience of working in conditions like these, and all the time their exposure to radiation is increasing," he said. "I suggested to Tepco that it bring in retired workers who said they were willing to help, but the management refused."

Faced with labour shortages and a string of accidents, Tepco has in recent weeks come under pressure to accept more specialist help from overseas. At the start of this month, Shinzo Abe, told an international science conference in Kyoto: "My country needs your knowledge and expertise."

But this apparent spirit of openness is unlikely to turn the decommissioning operation into a genuinely international effort, said Ian Fairlie, a London-based independent consultant on radioactivity in the environment. "Japanese officials ask for help, but Tepco and the government are not in the business of saying: 'This is serious, please come and help us,'" he said.

Tepco's unshakable belief in its ability to complete the decommissioning operation rules out any meaningful co-operation, even with Japanese government officials. "Tepco has always wanted to do its own thing," said Akihiro Yoshikawa, a Tepco employee of 14 years who recently left the company. "It doesn't want the government stepping in and telling it what to do; it just wants the government's money."

Yoshikawa said the spirit of resilience his former colleagues had displayed in the aftermath of the accident had turned to despondency amid mounting criticism at home and abroad, forcing younger workers to leave and older ones to take early retirement. "They felt like they were being bullied, even though they were putting their lives at risk," he said.

"Tepco is spending its money on fixing the technical problems, but it also needs people to carry out that work. I'm very worried about the labour shortage. If they don't do something about it soon, the employment system at Fukushima Daiichi will collapse first, not the plant."

For the thousands of non-Tepco employees hired across Japan to perform backbreaking, dangerous work for contractors and subcontractors, the lure of earning decent money in return for working close to lethal levels of radiation has proved an illusion.

Once money for accommodation has been subtracted from their wages, labourers are typically left with a few thousand yen at the end of each day. In some cases, smaller companies withhold danger money, which can amount to more than half of a worker's daily wage because, they say, they need the extra cash to keep their business afloat.

The poor pay has forced growing numbers of men to quit and take up jobs decontaminating the area around the plant, for which they can earn similar momey but with much less exposure to radiation.

"The real work at Fukushima Daiichi is being done by the general contractors, with the smaller companies picking up the crumbs," Yoshikawa said. "They outbid each other for contracts and so end up with less money to pay their workers. They have no choice but to hire cheap labour."

Conditions for Tepco workers living in J Village – a football training complex just south of Fukushima Daiichi – have only recently improved.

For two years after the disaster, those living in prefabricated units at J Village had to walk hundreds of metres to use communal toilets at night. Tepco belatedly installed private toilets earlier this year after the firm's incoming president, Naomi Hirose, heeded health experts' warnings that the lack of facilities was compromising employees' health.

"The managers at Tepco headquarters have little idea of how their Fukushima Daiichi employees live," said Tanigawa, the public health professor. "The company's management is focused on the compensation problem and doesn't want to be accused of only looking after its own when there are still evacuees who haven't been compensated."

But as concern grows over Tepco's ability to address the myriad technical challenges facing Fukushima Daiichi – starting next month with the removal of 1,300 spent fuel assemblies from the top of reactor No 4 – the unfolding human crisis is being largely ignored.

There is still no full-time mental health counselling available at the plant, said Shigemura, whose team visits about once a month to talk to workers and administer pharmacological treatments. "That amazes me," he said.

"Tepco workers worry about their health, but also about whether Tepco will take care of them if they fall ill in the future. They put their lives and their health on the line, but in the years to come, they wonder if they will just be discarded."

**28 Signs That The West Coast Is Being Absolutely Fried With Nuclear Radiation From Fukushima**

http://thetruthwins.com/wp-content/themes/atahualpa/images/icons/user.gifBy Michael Snyder, on October 21st, 2013

[](http://thetruthwins.com/archives/28-signs-that-the-west-coast-is-being-absolutely-fried-with-nuclear-radiation-from-fukushima/fukushima-radiation)

The map above comes from [the Nuclear Emergency Tracking Center](http://www.netc.com/).  It shows that radiation levels at radiation monitoring stations all over the country are elevated.  As you will notice, this is particularly true along the west coast of the United States.  Every single day, 300 tons of radioactive water from Fukushima enters the Pacific Ocean.  That means that the total amouont of radioactive material released from Fukushima is constantly increasing, and it is steadily building up in our food chain.  Ultimately, all of this nuclear radiation will outlive all of us by a very wide margin.  They are saying that it could take up to 40 years to clean up the Fukushima disaster, and meanwhile countless innocent people will develop cancer and other health problems as a result of exposure to high levels of nuclear radiation.  We are talking about a nuclear disaster that is absolutely unprecedented, and it is constantly getting worse.  The following are 28 signs that the west coast of North America is being absolutely fried with nuclear radiation from Fukushima…

**1.** Polar bears, seals and walruses along the Alaska coastline are suffering from [fur loss and open sores](http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/04/08/11083494-fur-loss-open-sores-seen-in-polar-bears)…

Wildlife experts are studying whether fur loss and open sores detected in nine polar bears in recent weeks is widespread and related to similar incidents among seals and walruses.

The bears were among 33 spotted near Barrow, Alaska, during routine survey work along the Arctic coastline. Tests showed they had “alopecia, or loss of fur, and other skin lesions,” [the U.S. Geological Survey said in a statement](http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3162).

**2.** There is an [epidemic of sea lion deaths](http://www.zerohedge.com/contributed/2013-03-31/fukushima-radiation-causing-epidemic-dead-and-starving-sea-lions-california) along the California coastline…

At island rookeries off the Southern California coast, 45 percent of the pups born in June have died, said Sharon Melin, a wildlife biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service based in Seattle. Normally, less than one-third of the pups would die.   It’s gotten so bad in the past two weeks that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration declared an “unusual mortality event.”

**3.** Along the Pacific coast of Canada and the Alaska coastline, the population of sockeye salmon is at [a historic low](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/lake-babine-sockeye-fishery-at-risk-of-unprecedented-closure/article13715638/?service=print).  Many are blaming Fukushima.

**4.** Something is causing fish all along the west coast of Canada [to bleed from their gills, bellies and eyeballs](http://www.canada.com/investigating+reports+bleeding+herring/8795535/story.html).

**5.** A vast field of radioactive debris from Fukushima that is [approximately the size of California](http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2012/03/radioactive-debris-washing-up-on-pacific-coast.html) has crossed the Pacific Ocean and is starting to collide with the west coast.

**6.** It is being projected that the radioactivity of coastal waters off the U.S. west coast [could double](http://environmentalresearchweb.org/cws/article/news/50176) over the next five to six years.

**7.** Experts have found [very high levels of cesium-137](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/05/22/national/researchers-find-high-cesium-in-some-pacific-plankton/#.UZu7-GfYGTc) in plankton living in the waters of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and the west coast.

**8.** One test in California found that [15 out of 15](http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2012/05/absolutely-every-one-of-the-15-bluefin-tuna-tested-in-california-waters-contaminated-with-fukushima-radiation.html) bluefin tuna were contaminated with radiation from Fukushima.

**9.** Back in 2012, the Vancouver Sun reported that cesium-137 was being found in [a very high percentage](http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/343-203/9463-canada-fish-eaters-threatened-by-fukushima-radiation) of the fish that Japan was selling to Canada…

• 73 percent of mackerel tested

• 91 percent of the halibut

• 92 percent of the sardines

• 93 percent of the tuna and eel

• 94 percent of the cod and anchovies

• 100 percent of the carp, seaweed, shark and monkfish

**10.** Canadian authorities are finding [extremely high levels of nuclear radiation](http://canadaam.ctvnews.ca/report-raises-fresh-concerns-about-radiation-levels-in-japanese-fish-1.1486514) in certain fish samples…

Some fish samples tested to date have had very high levels of radiation: one sea bass sample collected in July, for example, had 1,000 becquerels per kilogram of cesium.

**11.** Some experts believe that we could see very high levels of cancer along the west coast [just from people eating contaminated fish](http://www.nationaljournal.com/global-security-newswire/nuclear-power-industry-lawmakers-at-odds-over-epa-response-guide-20130923)…

“Look at what’s going on now: They’re dumping huge amounts of radioactivity into the ocean — no one expected that in 2011,” Daniel Hirsch, a nuclear policy lecturer at the University of California-Santa Cruz, told *Global Security Newswire*. “We could have large numbers of cancer from ingestion of fish.”

**12.** BBC News recently reported that radiation levels around Fukushima are “[18 times higher](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23918882)” than previously believed.

**13.** An [EU-funded study](http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/13/1425/2013/acp-13-1425-2013.html) concluded that Fukushima released up to 210 quadrillion becquerels of cesium-137 into the atmosphere.

**14.** Atmospheric radiation from Fukushima reached the west coast of the United States [within a few days](http://news.discovery.com/earth/oceans/fukushima-radioactive-plume-reach-us-130901.htm) back in 2011.

**15.** At this point, [300 tons](http://news.yahoo.com/japan-government-joining-efforts-contain-fukushima-toxic-water-033418884.html) of contaminated water is pouring into the Pacific Ocean from Fukushima every single day.

**16.** A senior researcher of marine chemistry at the Japan Meteorological Agency’s Meteorological Research Institute says that “30 billion becquerels of radioactive cesium and 30 billion becquerels of radioactive strontium” are being released into the Pacific Ocean from Fukushima [every single day](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/0311disaster/fukushima/AJ201309200053).

**17.** According to Tepco, a total of somewhere between [20 trillion and 40 trillion becquerels of radioactive tritium](http://thetruthwins.com/archives/radioactive-water-from-fukushima-is-systematically-poisoning-the-entire-pacific-ocean) have gotten into the Pacific Ocean since the Fukushima disaster first began.

**18.** According to a professor at Tokyo University, 3 gigabecquerels of cesium-137 are flowing into the port at Fukushima Daiichi [every single day](http://enenews.com/mystery-tv-expert-says-oceans-radiation-levels-too-high-to-be-explained-by-only-groundwater-there-must-be-other-routes-for-contamination-thats-flowing-into-pacific-devastating-impact).

**19.** It has been estimated that up to [100 times](http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/343-203/9463-canada-fish-eaters-threatened-by-fukushima-radiation) as much nuclear radiation has been released into the ocean from Fukushima than was released during the entire Chernobyl disaster.

**20.** One recent study concluded that a very large plume of cesium-137 from the Fukushima disaster will start flowing into U.S. coastal waters [early next year](http://news.discovery.com/earth/oceans/fukushima-radioactive-plume-reach-us-130901.htm)…

Ocean simulations showed that the plume of radioactive cesium-137 released by the Fukushima disaster in 2011 could begin flowing into U.S. coastal waters starting in early 2014 and peak in 2016.

**21.** It is being projected that significant levels of cesium-137 will reach every corner of the Pacific Ocean [by the year 2020](http://www.whiotv.com/news/news/world/activist-warns-days-eating-pacific-ocean-fish-are-/nZjdK/).

**22.** It is being projected that the entire Pacific Ocean will soon “[have cesium levels 5 to 10 times higher](http://enenews.com/radio-fukushima-daiichi-has-contaminated-the-biggest-body-of-water-on-the-planet-whole-pacific-ocean-likely-to-have-cesium-levels-5-10-times-higher-than-at-peak-of-nuclear-bomb-tests-audio)” than what we witnessed during the era of heavy atomic bomb testing in the Pacific many decades ago.

**23.** The immense amounts of nuclear radiation getting into the water in the Pacific Ocean has caused environmental activist Joe Martino to issue [the following warning](http://www.whiotv.com/news/news/world/activist-warns-days-eating-pacific-ocean-fish-are-/nZjdK/)…

“Your days of eating Pacific Ocean fish are over.”

**24.** The Iodine-131, Cesium-137 and Strontium-90 that are constantly coming from Fukushima are going to affect the health of those living the the northern hemisphere for a very, very long time.  Just consider what [Harvey Wasserman](http://www.economicpolicyjournal.com/2013/08/the-fukushima-nightmare-gets-worse.html) had to say about this…

Iodine-131, for example, can be ingested into the thyroid, where it emits beta particles (electrons) that damage tissue. A plague of damaged thyroids has already been reported among as many as 40 percent of the children in the Fukushima area. That percentage can only go higher. In developing youngsters, it can stunt both physical and mental growth. Among adults it causes a very wide range of ancillary ailments, including cancer.

Cesium-137 from Fukushima has been found in fish caught as far away as California. It spreads throughout the body, but tends to accumulate in the muscles.

Strontium-90’s half-life is around 29 years. It mimics calcium and goes to our bones.

**25.** According to a recent [Planet Infowars report](http://planet.infowars.com/outdoors/california-coastline-becoming-like-dead-zone-fukushima-to-blame), the California coastline is being transformed into “a dead zone”…

The California coastline is becoming like a dead zone.

If you haven’t been to a California beach lately, you probably don’t know that the rocks are unnaturally CLEAN – there’s hardly any kelp, barnacles, sea urchins, etc. anymore and the tide pools are similarly eerily devoid of crabs, snails and other scurrying signs of life… and especially as compared to 10 – 15 years ago when one was wise to wear tennis shoes on a trip to the beach in order to avoid cutting one’s feet on all the STUFF of life – broken shells, bones, glass, driftwood, etc.

There are also days when I am hard-pressed to find even a half dozen seagulls and/or terns on the county beach.

You can still find a few gulls trolling the picnic areas and some of the restaurants (with outdoor seating areas) for food, of course, but, when I think back to 10 – 15 years ago, the skies and ALL the beaches were literally filled with seagulls and the haunting sound of their cries both day and night…

NOW it’s unnaturally quiet.

**26.** A study [conducted last year](http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11434-012-5171-6) came to the conclusion that radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster could negatively affect human life along the west coast of North America from Mexico to Alaska “for decades”.

**27.** According to the Wall Street Journal, it is being projected that the cleanup of Fukushima could take [up to 40 years to complete](http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/2013/08/15/fukushima-watch-tepco-finally-gets-an-official-cleanup-plan/).

**28.** Yale Professor Charles Perrow is warning that if the cleanup of Fukushima is not handled with 100% precision that humanity could be threatened “[for thousands of years](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/charles-perrow/fukushima-forever_b_3941589.html)“…

“Conditions in the unit 4 pool, 100 feet from the ground, are perilous, and if any two of the rods touch it could cause a nuclear reaction that would be uncontrollable. The radiation emitted from all these rods, if they are not continually cool and kept separate, would require the evacuation of surrounding areas including Tokyo. Because of the radiation at the site the 6,375 rods in the common storage pool could not be continuously cooled; **they would fission and all of humanity will be threatened, for thousands of years**.”

Are you starting to understand why so many people are so deeply concerned about what is going on at Fukushima?

Oct 25 (Reuters) - Tetsuya Hayashi went to Fukushima to take a job at ground zero of the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. He lasted less than two weeks.

Hayashi, 41, says he was recruited for a job monitoring the radiation exposure of workers leaving the plant in the summer of 2012. Instead, when he turned up for work, he was handed off through a web of contractors and assigned, to his surprise, to one of Fukushima's hottest radiation zones.

He was told he would have to wear an oxygen tank and a double-layer protective suit. Even then, his handlers told him, the radiation would be so high it could burn through his annual exposure limit in just under an hour.

"I felt cheated and entrapped," Hayashi said. "I had not agreed to any of this."

When Hayashi took his grievances to a firm on the next rung up the ladder of Fukushima contractors, he says he was fired. He filed a complaint but has not received any response from labor regulators for more than a year. All the eight companies involved, including embattled plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co, declined to comment or could not be reached for comment on his case.

Out of work, Hayashi found a second job at Fukushima, this time building a concrete base for tanks to hold spent fuel rods. His new employer skimmed almost a third of his wages - about $1,500 a month - and paid him the rest in cash in brown paper envelopes, he says. Reuters reviewed documents related to Hayashi's complaint, including pay envelopes and bank statements.

Hayashi's hard times are not unusual in the estimated $150-billion effort to dismantle the Fukushima reactors and clean up the neighboring areas, a Reuters examination found.

In reviewing Fukushima working conditions, Reuters interviewed more than 80 workers, employers and officials involved in the unprecedented nuclear clean-up. A common complaint: the project's dependence on a sprawling and little scrutinized network of subcontractors - many of them inexperienced with nuclear work and some of them, police say, have ties to organized crime.

Tepco sits atop a pyramid of subcontractors that can run to seven or more layers and includes [construction](http://www.reuters.com/sectors/industries/overview?industryCode=46&lc=int_mb_1001) giants such as Kajima Corp and Obayashi Corp in the first tier. The embattled utility remains in charge of the work to dismantle the damaged Fukushima reactors, a government-subsidized job expected to take 30 years or more.

Outside the plant, Japan's "Big Four" [construction](http://www.reuters.com/sectors/industries/overview?industryCode=46&lc=int_mb_1001) companies - Kajima, Obayashi, Shimizu Corp and Taisei Corp - oversee hundreds of small firms working on government-funded contracts to remove radioactive dirt and debris from nearby villages and farms so evacuees can return home.

Tokyo Electric, widely known as Tepco, says it has been unable to monitor subcontractors fully but has taken steps to limit worker abuses and curb the involvement of organized crime.

"We sign contracts with companies based on the cost needed to carry out a task," Masayuki Ono, a general manager for [nuclear power](http://www.reuters.com/subjects/nuclear-power?lc=int_mb_1001) at Tepco, told Reuters. "The companies then hire their own employees taking into account our contract. It's very difficult for us to go in and check their contracts."

The unprecedented Fukushima nuclear clean-up both inside and outside the plant faces a deepening shortage of workers. There are about 25 percent more openings than applicants for jobs in Fukushima prefecture, according to government data.

Raising wages could draw more workers but that has not happened, the data shows. Tepco is under pressure to post a profit in the year to March 2014 under a turnaround plan Japan's top [banks](http://www.reuters.com/sectors/industries/overview?industryCode=128&lc=int_mb_1001) recently financed with $5.9 billion in new loans and refinancing. In 2011, in the wake of the disaster, Tepco cut pay for its own workers by 20 percent.

With wages flat and workers scarce, labor brokers have stepped into the gap, recruiting people whose lives have reached a dead end or who have trouble finding a job outside the disaster zone.

The result has been a proliferation of small firms - many unregistered. Some 800 companies are active inside the Fukushima plant and hundreds more are working in the decontamination effort outside its gates, according to Tepco and documents reviewed by Reuters.

Tepco, Asia's largest listed power utility, had long enjoyed close ties to regulators and lax government oversight. That came under harsh scrutiny after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and a massive tsunami hit the plant on March 11, 2011. The disaster triggered three reactor meltdowns, a series of explosions and a radiation leak that forced 150,000 people to flee nearby villages.

Tepco's hapless efforts since to stabilize the situation have been like someone playing "whack-a-mole", Minister of [Economy](http://www.reuters.com/finance/economy?lc=int_mb_1001), Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi has said.

'NUCLEAR GYPSIES'

Hayashi is one of an estimated 50,000 workers who have been hired so far to shut down the nuclear plant and decontaminate the towns and villages nearby. Thousands more will have to follow. Some of the workers will be needed to maintain the system that cools damaged fuel rods in the reactors with thousands of tonnes (1 tonne = 1.102 metric tons) of water every day. The contaminated runoff is then transferred to more than 1,000 tanks, enough to fill more than 130 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Dismantling the Fukushima Daiichi plant will require maintaining a job pool of at least 12,000 workers just through 2015, according to Tepco's blueprint. That compares to just over 8,000 registered workers now. In recent months, some 6,000 have been working inside the plant.

The Tepco hiring estimate does not include the manpower required for the government's new $330 million plan to build a massive ice wall around the plant to keep radiated water from leaking into the sea.

"I think we should really ask whether they are able to do this while ensuring the safety of the workers," said Shinichi Nakayama, deputy director of safety research at the [Japan](http://www.reuters.com/places/japan) Atomic Energy Agency.

Japan's nuclear industry has relied on cheap labor since the first plants, including Fukushima, opened in the 1970s. For years, the industry has rounded up itinerant workers known as "nuclear gypsies" from the Sanya neighborhood of Tokyo and Kamagasaki in Osaka, areas known for large numbers of homeless men.

"Working conditions in the nuclear industry have always been bad," said Saburo Murata, deputy director of Osaka's Hannan Chuo Hospital. "Problems with money, outsourced recruitment, lack of proper [health insurance](http://www.reuters.com/sectors/industries/overview?industryCode=139&lc=int_mb_1001) - these have existed for decades."

The Fukushima project has magnified those problems. When Japan's parliament approved a bill to fund decontamination work in August 2011, the law did not apply existing rules regulating the construction industry. As a result, contractors working on decontamination have not been required to disclose information on management or undergo any screening.

That meant anyone could become a nuclear contractor overnight. Many small companies without experience rushed to bid for contracts and then often turned to brokers to round up the manpower, according to employers and workers.

The resulting influx of workers has turned the town of Iwaki, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the plant, into a bustling labor hub at the front line of the massive public works project.

In extreme cases, brokers have been known to "buy" workers by paying off their debts. The workers are then forced to work until they pay off their new bosses for sharply reduced wages and under conditions that make it hard for them to speak out against abuses, labor activists and workers in Fukushima said.

Lake Barrett, a former U.S. nuclear regulator and an advisor to Tepco, says the system is so ingrained it will take time to change.

"There's been a century of tradition of big Japanese companies using contractors, and that's just the way it is in [Japan](http://www.reuters.com/places/japan?lc=int_mb_1001)," he told Reuters. "You're not going to change that overnight just because you have a new job here, so I think you have to adapt."

A Tepco survey from 2012 showed nearly half of the workers at Fukushima were employed by one contractor but managed by another. Japanese law prohibits such arrangements, in order to prevent brokers from skimming workers' wages.

Tepco said the survey represents one of the steps it has taken to crack down on abuses. "We take issues related to inappropriate subcontractors very seriously," the utility said in a statement to Reuters.

Tepco said it warns its contractors to respect labor regulations. The company said it has established a hotline for workers, and has organized lectures for subcontractors to raise awareness on labor regulations. In June, it introduced compulsory training for new workers on what constitutes illegal employment practices.

Tepco does not publish average hourly wages in the plant. Workers interviewed by Reuters said wages could be as low as around $6 an hour, but usually average around $12 an hour - about a third lower than the average in Japan's construction industry.

Workers for subcontractors in the most-contaminated area outside the plant are supposed to be paid an additional government-funded hazard allowance of about $100 per day, although many report it has not been paid.

The work in the plant can also be dangerous. Six workers in October were exposed to radioactive water when one of them detached a pipe connected to a treatment system. In August, 12 workers were irradiated when removing rubble from around one of the reactors. The accidents prompted Japan's nuclear regulator to question whether Tepco has been delegating too much.

"Proper oversight is important in preventing careless mistakes. Right now Tepco may be leaving it all up to the subcontractors," said the head of Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority, Shunichi Tanaka in response to the recent accidents.

Tepco said it will take measures to ensure that such accidents are not repeated. The utility said it monitors safety with spot inspections and checks on safeguards for workers when projects are divided between subcontractors.

The NRA, which is primarily charged with reactor safety, is only one of several agencies dealing with the Fukushima project: the ministries of labor, environment, trade and [economy](http://www.reuters.com/finance/economy?lc=int_mb_1001) are also responsible for managing the clean-up and enforcing regulations, along with local authorities and police.

Yousuke Minaguchi, a lawyer who has represented Fukushima workers, says Japan's government has turned a blind eye to the problem of worker exploitation. "On the surface, they say it is illegal. But in reality they don't want to do anything. By not punishing anyone, they can keep using a lot of workers cheaply."

Economy Minister Motegi, who is responsible for Japan's energy policy and decommissioning of the plant, instructed Tepco to improve housing for workers. He has said more needs to be done to ensure workers are being treated well.

"To get work done, it's necessary to cooperate with a large number of companies," he told Reuters. "Making sure that those relations are proper, and that work is moving forward is something we need to keep working on daily."

FALSIFIED PASSBOOK

Hayashi offers a number of reasons for his decision to head to Fukushima from his home in Nagano, an area in central [Japan](http://www.reuters.com/places/japan?lc=int_mb_1001) famous for its ski slopes, where in his youth Hayashi honed his snowboarding skills.

He says he was skeptical of the government's early claim that the Fukushima plant was under control and wanted to see it for himself. He had worked in construction, knew how to weld and felt he could contribute.

Like many other workers, Hayashi was initially recruited by a broker. He was placed with RH Kogyo, a subcontractor six levels removed from Tepco.

When he arrived in Fukushima, Hayashi received instructions from five other firms in addition to the labor broker and RH Kogyo. It was the sixth contractor up the ladder, ABL Co. Ltd that told him he would be working in a highly radioactive area. ABL Co reported to Tokyo Energy & Systems Inc, which in Fukushima manages some 200 workers as a first-tier contractor under Tepco.

Hayashi says he kept copies of his work records and took pictures and videos inside the plant, encouraged by a TV journalist he had met before beginning his assignment. At one point, his boss from RH Kogyo told him not to worry because any radiation he was exposed to would not "build up".

"Once you wait a week, the amount of radiation goes down by half," the man is seen telling him in one of the recordings. The former supervisor declined to comment.

The statement represents a mistaken account of radiation safety standards applied in Fukushima, which are based on the view that there is no such thing as a safe dose. Workers are limited to 100 millisieverts of radiation exposure over five years. The International Atomic Energy Agency says exposure over that threshold measurably raises the risk of later cancers.

After Hayashi's first two-week stint at the plant ended, he discovered his nuclear passbook - a record of radiation exposure - had been falsified to show he had been an employee of larger firms higher up the ladder of contractors, not RH Kogyo.

Reuters reviewed the passbook and documents related to Hayashi's employment. The nuclear passbook shows that Hayashi was employed by Suzushi Kogyo from May to June 2012. It says Take One employed Hayashi for ten days in June 2012. Hayashi says that is false because he had a one-year contract with RH Kogyo.

"My suspicion is that they falsified the records to hide the fact that they had outsourced my employment," Hayashi said.

ABL Co. said Hayashi had worked with the firm but declined to comment on his claims. Tepco, Tokyo Energy & Systems, Suzushi Kogyo and RH Kogyo also declined to comment. Take One could not be reached for comment.

In September 2012, Hayashi found another job with a subcontractor for Kajima, one of Japan's largest construction companies. He didn't want to go back home empty-handed and says he thought he might have been just unlucky with his first bad experience at the plant.

Instead, his problems continued. This time a broker who recruited several workers for the subcontractor insisted on access to his bank account and then took almost a third of the roughly $160 Hayashi was supposed to be earning each day, Hayashi says.

The broker, according to Hayashi, identified himself as a former member of a local gang from Hayashi's native Nagano.

Ryo Goshima, 23, said the same broker from Nagano placed him in a crew doing decontamination work and then skimmed almost half of what he had been promised. Goshima and Hayashi became friends in Fukushima when they wound up working for the same firm.

Goshima said he was fired in December after complaining about the skimming practice. Tech, the contractor that had employed him, said it had fired another employee who was found to have skimmed Goshima's wages. Tech said Goshima left for personal reasons. The firm paid Goshima back wages, both sides say. The total payment was $9,000, according to Goshima.

Kajima spokesman Atsushi Fujino said the company was not in a position to comment on either of the cases since it did not have a contract with Hayashi or Goshima.

"We pay the companies who work for us and instruct those companies to pay the hazard allowance," the Kajima spokesman said in a statement.

THE YAKUZA CONNECTION

The complexity of Fukushima contracts and the shortage of workers have played into the hands of the yakuza, Japan's organized crime syndicates, which have run labor rackets for generations.

Nearly 50 gangs with 1,050 members operate in Fukushima prefecture dominated by three major syndicates - Yamaguchi-gumi, Sumiyoshi-kai and Inagawa-kai, police say.

Ministries, the companies involved in the decontamination and decommissioning work, and police have set up a task force to eradicate organized crime from the nuclear clean-up project. Police investigators say they cannot crack down on the gang members they track without receiving a complaint. They also rely on major contractors for information.

In a rare prosecution involving a yakuza executive, Yoshinori Arai, a boss in a gang affiliated with the Sumiyoshi-kai, was convicted of labor law violations. Arai admitted pocketing around $60,000 over two years by skimming a third of wages paid to workers in the disaster zone. In March a judge gave him an eight-month suspended sentence because Arai said he had resigned from the gang and regretted his actions.

Arai was convicted of supplying workers to a site managed by Obayashi, one of Japan's leading contractors, in Date, a town northwest of the Fukushima plant. Date was in the path of the most concentrated plume of radiation after the disaster.

A police official with knowledge of the investigation said Arai's case was just "the tip of the iceberg" in terms of organized crime involvement in the clean-up.

A spokesman for Obayashi said the company "did not notice" that one of its subcontractors was getting workers from a gangster.

"In contracts with our subcontractors we have clauses on not cooperating with organized crime," the spokesman said, adding the company was working with the police and its subcontractors to ensure this sort of violation does not happen again.

In April, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare sanctioned three companies for illegally dispatching workers to Fukushima. One of those, a Nagasaki-based company called Yamato [Engineering](http://www.reuters.com/sectors/industries/overview?industryCode=46&lc=int_mb_1001), sent 510 workers to lay pipe at the nuclear plant in violation of labor laws banning brokers. All three companies were ordered by labor regulators to improve business practices, records show.

In 2009, Yamato Engineering was banned from public works projects because of a police determination that it was "effectively under the control of organized crime," according to a public notice by the Nagasaki-branch of the land and transport ministry. Yamato Engineering had no immediate comment.

Goshima said he himself had been working for the local chapter of Yamaguchi-gumi since the age of 14, extorting money and collecting debts. He quit at age 20 after spending some time in jail. He had to borrow money from a loan shark to pay off his gang, which demanded about $2,000 a month for several months to let him go.

"My parents didn't want any problems from the gang, so they told me to leave and never return," Goshima said. He went to Fukushima looking for a well-paying job to pay down the debt - and ended up working for a yakuza member from his home district.

DECONTAMINATION COMPLAINTS

In towns and villages around the plant in Fukushima, thousands of workers wielding industrial hoses, operating mechanical diggers and wearing dosimeters to measure radiation have been deployed to scrub houses and roads, dig up topsoil and strip trees of leaves in an effort to reduce background radiation so that refugees can return home.

Hundreds of small companies have been given contracts for this decontamination work. Nearly 70 percent of those surveyed in the first half of 2013 had broken labor regulations, according to a labor ministry report in July. The ministry's Fukushima office had received 567 complaints related to working conditions in the decontamination effort in the year to March. It issued 10 warnings. No firm was penalized.

One of the firms that has faced complaints is Denko Keibi, which before the disaster used to supply security guards for construction sites.

Denko Keibi managed 35 workers in Tamura, a village near the plant. At an arbitration session in May that Reuters attended, the workers complained they had been packed five to a room in small cabins. Dinner was typically a bowl of rice and half a pepper or a sardine, they said. When a driver transporting workers flipped their van on an icy road in December, supervisors ordered workers to take off their uniforms and scatter to distant hospitals, the workers said. Denko Keibi had no insurance for workplace accidents and wanted to avoid reporting the crash, they said.

"We were asked to come in and go to work quickly," an executive of Denko Keibi said, apologizing to the workers, who later won compensation of about $6,000 each for unpaid wages. "In hindsight, this is not something an amateur should have gotten involved in."

In the arbitration session Reuters attended, Denko Keibi said there had been problems with working conditions but said it was still examining what happened in the December accident.

The Denko Keibi case is unusual because of the large number of workers involved, the labor union that won the settlement said. Many workers are afraid to speak out, often because they have to keep paying back loans to their employers.

"The workers are scared to sue because they're afraid they will be blacklisted," said Mitsuo Nakamura, a former day laborer who runs a group set up to protect Fukushima workers. "You have to remember these people often can't get any other job."

Hayashi's experiences at the plant turned him into an activist. He was reassigned to a construction site outside Tokyo by his second employer after he posted an online video about his first experiences in the plant in late 2012. After a tabloid magazine published a story about Hayashi, his managers asked him to leave. He has since moved to Tokyo and filed a complaint with the labor standards office. He volunteered in the successful parliamentary campaign of former actor turned anti-nuclear activist, Taro Yamamoto.

"Major contractors that run this system think that workers will always be afraid to talk because they are scared to lose their jobs," said Hayashi. "But Japan can't continue to ignore this problem forever."

**Radioactive Leaks At Fukushima Caused By Storm, TEPCO Says**

**Agence France Presse**  |  By Posted: 10/21/2013 5:35 am EDT  |  Updated: 10/21/2013 12:15 pm EDT

[Share on Google+](http://plus.google.com/share?url=http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/21/radioactive-leaks-at-fukushima-caused-by-storm_n_4134291.html&hl=en-US)



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Heavy rain at the Fukushima nuclear plant caused a leak of radioactive water containing a cancer-causing isotope, possibly into the sea, its operator said Monday, as a typhoon approaching Japan threatened further downpours.

It is the latest in a long line of setbacks at the site and further undermines agreements between operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) and the government, which limit the level of radioactive contamination in water that goes outside the plant.

TEPCO said a barrier intended to contain radioactive overflow was breached in one spot by water contaminated with strontium-90 at 70 times the legal limit for safe disposal.

Strontium-90 is produced during nuclear reactions. It accumulates in bones and remains potent for many years, and it can cause several types of cancer in humans.

The admission came as a team of experts from the UN's nuclear watchdog wrapped up their review of Japan's progress in cleaning up the worst atomic disaster in a generation.

TEPCO has poured thousands of tonnes of water on badly-damaged reactors at Fukushima to keep them cool and prevent them from melting down again.

This huge volume of water has to be stored in large tanks until it is cleaned of the radioactive substances it picks up in the cooling process.

Rain exacerbates the problem because as it hits polluted surfaces, it becomes contaminated, meaning TEPCO needs to scoop it all up for storage and treatment.

While the storage tanks all appeared to have survived the battering from heavy rain on Sunday, the concrete overflow barriers around them were not high enough to contain the rainwater runoff in several places.

Meteorologists say a typhoon that is likely to bring further heavy rain is churning its way slowly towards Japan. Forecasters expect it will hit later in the week.

In August, 300 tonnes of badly-polluted water leaked from a tank. It is now believed to have mixed with groundwater that is on its way to the sea.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was set to issue an assessment of progress Japan has made in dealing with the mess in and around the Fukushima plant.

The mission, which came at Tokyo's request, is a follow-up to an IAEA visit last year.

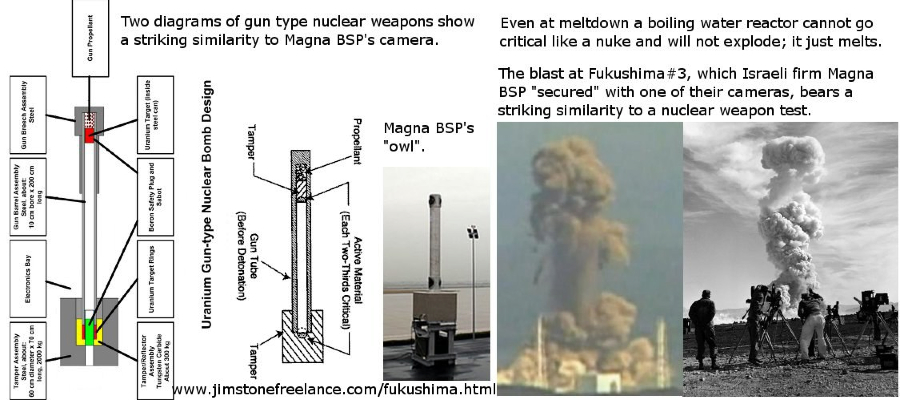
The international community has urged Japan to be more transparent over the clean-up at Fukushima, where reactors were sent into meltdown by the tsunami of March 2011, affecting a swathe of the country's northeast.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has insisted the situation is "under control", but doubts persist that the full extent of the problem is being revealed.

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**The Argument that Fukushima Was Sabotaged**

January 27, 2012

*(Jeff Rense refused to link to this article. He thinks it is a psy-op to absolve the nuclear industry of blame for Fukushima. Fine. But when I posted it anyway so people could decide for themselves, he announced he would no longer link to my site. You will no longer find my work on Rense's site. Sad that a 10 year relationship should end in this fashion. See,* [*"The Hidden Jeff Rense."*](http://www.henrymakow.com/thehiddenjeff_rense.html) *and "*[*Jeff Rense Steps in It.*](http://www.henrymakow.com/jeff_rense_steps_in_it.html)*")*    **Former NSA analyst, Jim Stone, argues that there was no mag 9.0 earthquake. The tsunami was caused by nuclear bombs in the sea and the Fukushima explosion and meltdown was caused by mini-nukes hidden in cameras installed by an Israeli security firm. The motive: punish Japan for offering to enrich Iranian uranium and straying from Illuminati diktat. This website reserves judgment but offers this introduction by James Farganne in the spirit of free discussion.**   
  
  
  
  
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**by James Farganne**  
**(henrymakow.com)**   
  
**When we compare** the  6.8-magnitude earthquake which devastated Kobe, Japan January 17, 1995 with Fukushima, the evidence does not stack up.   
  
A quick Google Images search of Kobe reveals incredible destruction of buildings, bridges, elevated highways, and other infrastructure.  
  
The Fukushima quake, magnitude 9.0, struck about 70 km off the coast of Japan on March 11, 2011.  
  
It sent a 15-meter tsunami crashing over *perfectly undamaged bridges, houses, roads, and cars* -- over a populace which had not been warned of the incoming tsunami, because there was no mag 9.0 earthquake. They were taken completely off-guard. Yet helicopters were waiting, and people all over Japan got to watch the tsunami roll in on live TV.  
  
What on earth was going on? Ordinarily, the Japanese people are warned of tsunamis. Why weren't they warned? Why was there no structural damage, no reason for them to suspect that a tsunami was coming?  
  
The quake must have seemed like nothing special to a nation of people who are used to quakes. In a video taken in one Tokyo newsroom during the Fukushima quake, staff were seen to continue typing at their computer stations, totally unfazed by it.  
  
*A 9.0-magnitude earthquake is more than 100 times stronger than a 6.8.* A 9.0 should have devastated everything within a 1,000-km radius. There should have been widespread urban carnage, even worse than what Kobe suffered.  
  
Yet the Fukushima quake of 3/11/11 did not cause a single structure to collapse.  
  
But don't take my word for it. [Go look up the helicopter footage on YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeoHW6hj92I&feature=related).  Look at the infrastructure the tsunami was crashing onto. [Not the slightest bit of damage.](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2hUwFo6Vpc&feature=related) Common sense is enough to make you wonder.  
  
Jim Stone did more than wonder. He dug up and analyzed the Japanese seismograms. He proved there was no 9.0 quake, and no epicenter out at sea. Instead, there were *three simultaneous quakes of much lesser magnitude, all of them inland.*  
  
The authorities lied about the 9.0 quake -- made it up out of whole cloth. An earthquake did not cause the tsunami. There must have been another cause.  
  
**Reactors Destroyed by Nukes**  
  
It turns out that the official explanation for the Fukushima reactor explosions was bogus as well. Nuclear power containment walls are extremely thick and strong. Hydrogen explosions could never have destroyed them. As a historical reference, hydrogen explosions occurred at Three Mile Island and caused no structural damage, nor even any injuries to plant personnel.  
  
Furthermore, Reactor Four contained no fuel on 3/11/11, and was therefore nonoperational -- yet it exploded and was destroyed as completely as were the other reactors that day. Reactor Four is like Building 7 at the World Trade Center - an utter impossibility, a blatant smoking gun. A reactor containing no fuel cannot operate; a nonoperational reactor cannot explode unless someone explodes it. The destruction of Reactor Four can only have been the result of sabotage.  
  
**Israeli Involvement**  
  
In February 2010, Japan [offered to enrich uranium for Iran](http://www.thenewamerican.com/world-mainmenu-26/asia-mainmenu-33/3016-japan-offers-to-enrich-uranium-for-iran). Soon thereafter, an Israeli firm by the name of Magna BSP secured a contract to run security at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. They installed oversized cameras strongly resembling gun-type nuclear weapons. There is strong evidence that they planted Stuxnet, an Israeli computer virus that attacks Siemens power plant control systems, and which Israel previously used to damage Iran's nuclear program. Magna BSP also established internet data links in the reactor cores, in blatant violation of international nuclear regulations.  
  
All twelve members of that security team returned to Israel in the week before 3/11/11. In the aftermath of the disaster, the Israelis publicly monitored the reactor cores via their illegal internet data links. Yet no one took them to task for this.  
  
**Jim Stone Targeted for Revealing Truth**  
  
What caused the tsunami? What destroyed the reactors?  
  
Using skills honed as a former NSA analyst with an engineering background, Jim Stone concluded that Israel was behind the destruction of Fukushima Daiichi. Now he is paying the price.   
  
Stone proved that there was no 9.0-magnitude quake to cause the tsunami. The tsunami must have been artificially induced, perhaps by an atomic bomb placed in the Japan Trench.  
  
The tsunami was blamed for flooding the reactors and causing the explosions. But Stone presents compelling evidence that Israel destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi plant by installing gun-type nuclear weapons in the guise of security cameras, and then setting them off in the tsunami's aftermath.  
  
Stone demonstrates that the Stuxnet virus continues to distort sensor readings at the disaster site to this day.  
  
Unlike many others in the world of whistle blowers, Stone bases his conclusions on hard evidence and unassailable logic. Anyone can review and challenge his work. He is open to it.  
  
Since releasing his report and making several radio appearances to support it, Jim Stone has been harassed, threatened, unlawfully detained, and is currently facing prison time on completely trumped-up charges.  
  
I have watched the reaction to his work on the net. Some have slandered him. Others have railroaded his work.  
  
No one has debunked him yet.  
  
His conclusions have ramifications that make 9/11 pale in significance.  
  
Why, all across the alternative media, this roaring silence on the work of Jim Stone?  
  
Why haven't more truth sites simply linked to his report, directing people to review the evidence and decide for themselves?  
  
Some have expressed suspicion that Stone might not be what he claims to be. That's irrelevant. Facts are facts. The report stands on facts.  
  
If you haven't done so yet, I urge you to study Jim Stone's Fukushima report. It is well worth the considerable time and effort. Then, if you agree that his conclusions are correct, please do your part in spreading this information and dispelling the alternative media's silence on it.  
  
To conclude, a 9.0-magnitude earthquake never happened in Japan on 3/11; the tsunami must have been artificially induced. Nor did hydrogen explosions obliterate containment walls of concrete and rebar several feet thick. The official story is impossible. Israel was punishing Japan, and Zionist operatives now are attempting to destroy Jim Stone, the man who exposed the truth.  
  
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The original report: [www.jimstonefreelance.com/fukushima1.html](http://www.jimstonefreelance.com/fukushima1.html)

Interview with visuals: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G9QlynPBcQ>

- See more at: http://henrymakow.com/theargumentfukushimasabotage.html#sthash.RXnhTkGo.dpuf

**WAKE UP.**

"Our race is the Master Race. We Jews are divine gods on this planet. We are as different from the inferior races as they are from insects. In fact, compared to our race, other races are beasts and animals, cattle at best. Other races are considered as human excrement. Our destiny is to rule over the inferior races. Our earthly kingdom will be ruled by our leader with a rod of iron. The masses will lick our feet and serve us as our slaves." (Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in a speech to the Knesset [Israeli Parlament], quoted by Amnon Kapeliouk, "Begin and the Beasts," New Statesman, June 25, 1982) - from WRH.

Wednesday, 24 February 2010 17:00

**Japan Offers to Enrich Uranium for Iran**

Citing a February 24 report from the the Nikkei *Business Daily*, AFP news reported that Japan has offered to enrich uranium for Iran to allow it to have access to nuclear power, while relieving international fears that the Islamic nation might be trying to build atomic weapons.

The Japanese daily said that the issue was expected to be discussed in Tokyo by the speaker of Iran's parliament, Ali Larijani, and Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada.  
  
The *Nikkei* daily, in a report that did not cite sources, reported that the proposal for Japan to enrich uranium for Iran was first discussed in December, with U.S. approval, when Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, visited Tokyo. The uranium would be used at Tehran's research reactor to produce medical isotopes, the report noted.  
  
Iran’s Press TV news also cited a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman’s quote of Katsuya, who said during his meeting with Larijani: "Japan strongly hopes Iran's nuclear issue will be resolved peacefully and diplomatically ... and that Iran considers a related UN Security Council resolution seriously."  
  
The Press TV report stated:

Iran says that it is a signatory of the NPT and, unlike Israel, neither believes in atomic weapons nor, as a matter of religious principle, does it intend to access such weapons of mass-destruction. Furthermore, Tehran has repeatedly called for the elimination of all nuclear weapon development, production and arsenals throughout the globe.   
  
Iran's nuclear facilities and enriched uranium remain under the supervision of IAEA inspectors, as outlined in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Agreement.   
  
The UN nuclear watchdog has carried out the highest number of inspections in Iran, compared to any other country throughout its history and has found nothing to indicate any diversion toward weaponization.

Iran has reportedly begun the process of enriching uranium fuel to a 20-percent level of U-235 required for a reactor in Tehran that is used to make medical isotopes. Weapons-grade uranium is enriched to about 90 percent U-235.   
  
According to a report published in the Richmark Sentinel of South Africa, Japan’s offer “is seen as a compromise that will allow Iran to have the level of enrichment it will need for such [medical isotope production] purposes and allay Western and especially Israeli fears of a nuclear Iran.”

The report noted:

Iran has so far refused Western offers of enrichment, with the last offer being that Russia and France would enrich and process uranium and has instead pressed with its own enrichment processes. Japan remains the only country in the world that has been attacked with nuclear weapons and is a strong advocate of nuclear non-proliferation.

As the Nikkei report observed, Japan extended its offer to Iran with U.S. approval. Yet it has been U.S. policy to strenuously object to Iran’s ongoing nuclear enrichment programs. For example, last November 29, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs issued a statement on the "Reports About Iran's Nuclear Program," which said:

If true, this would be yet another serious violation of Iran's clear obligations under multiple *UN security council resolutions*, and another example of Iran choosing to isolate itself. The *international community* has made clear that Iran has rights, but with those rights come responsibilities. As the overwhelming *IAEA board of governors* vote made clear, time is running out for Iran to address the *international community's* growing concerns about its nuclear program. [Emphasis added.]

The ultimate agenda of our current foreign policy may be revealed by the fact that in this short, 71-word statement, “international community” is mentioned twice, “UN security council resolutions” is mentioned once, and “IAEA [the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency]  board of governors” once. It is obvious that — just as the enforcement of several UN resolution was cited as authority for our invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq — U.S. foreign policy is predicated upon serving “the international community.”  
  
We can search in vain for a reference to anything “international” in our Constitution, which was written to establish a structure that would ensure the common defense of our states, while threatening neither state nor national sovereignty. So why does a statement issued by the White House presume to tell Iran what its rights and responsibilities are, as if national sovereignty itself were a gift from "the international community"?  
  
One further observation: If Japan, which has suffered more from nuclear weapons than any other nation on Earth, is not threatened by the prospect of supplying enriched uranium to Iran, why should the United States be?  
  
The answer is, Iran’s nuclear program threatens us no more than did Saddam Hussein’s alleged “weapons of mass destruction.” But both regimes posed a threat to the UN’s ongoing progression towards making all sovereign nations subservient to the “international community.”  
  
Furthermore, while the United States has given its tacit approval to the Japanese deal, it is certain that that approval will come with strings attached, strings ultimately held by an agency of the UN.

*Photo of Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada (with interpreter) during his meeting with Iran's parliament speaker Ali Larijaniright: AP Images*

**Fukushima update - North American food supply poisoned along Pacific Coast**

Sunday, July 14, 2013 by: Carolanne Wright  
*Tags:* [*Fukushima*](http://www.naturalnews.com/Fukushima.html)*,* [*radiation poisoning*](http://www.naturalnews.com/radiation_poisoning.html)*,* [*contaminated food*](http://www.naturalnews.com/contaminated_food.html)

Learn more: <http://www.naturalnews.com/041200_Fukushima_radiation_poisoning_contaminated_food.html#ixzz2ikLlypDW>

(NaturalNews) If you live on the West Coast of the U.S. or Canada, you may want to reconsider your water filtration method as well as how you select and prepare food. Evidently, the nightmare of Fukushima is far from over - another 16 million years to be exact. Due to the astonishingly long half-life of iodine-129, the whole ecosystem of the Pacific Coast will be contaminated pretty much forever.

**Lifespan of radioactive isotopes and other trivia**

Among other dangerous radioactive isotopes released from the Fukushima meltdown, iodine-129 also spewed forth from the damaged reactor. Incredibly, this isotope has a half-life of 16 million years. Essentially, the entire West Coast food supply of North America will be contaminated with radiation for unlimited generations. We have fundamentally entered into a new way of life - one that takes a giant leap toward illness, disease and heightened mortality rates.  
  
Consider the water supply. Not only does it provide drinking water for humans and animals, but it also irrigates crops. When the supply is contaminated, it influences everything. According to a public health statement made by the *Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry* (ATSDR):  
  
"Iodine in the oceans enters the air from sea spray or as iodine gases. Once in the air, iodine can combine with water or with particles in the air and can enter the soil and surface water, or land on vegetation when these particles fall to the ground or when it rains. Iodine can remain in soil for a long time because it combines with organic material in the soil. It can also be taken up by plants that grow in the soil. Cows or other animals that eat these plants will take up the [iodine](http://www.naturalnews.com/iodine.html) in the plants. Iodine that enters surface water can reenter the air as iodine gases."  
  
The question is, does radioactive iodine spread in the same manner as its natural counterpart? Unfortunately, the answer is an unequivocal "yes." The agency continues:  
  
"Radioactive iodine also forms naturally from chemical reactions high in the atmosphere. Most radioactive forms of iodine change very quickly (seconds to days) to stable elements that are not radioactive. However, one form, 129I, changes very slowly (millions of years), and its levels build up in the environment."  
  
Before packing up and relocating to Antarctica, a few options are available that can drastically reduce exposure to these harmful elements.

**Protect and detoxify**

Here are several precautions that can help shield individuals from a radioactive food supply:  
  
- View all fish and crustaceans from the Pacific Ocean as tainted.  
  
- Always use filtered water for cooking and drinking.  
  
- Pay attention to the origin of dairy.  
  
- Wash any produce thoroughly with [natural](http://www.naturalnews.com/natural.html) soap and rinse with purified water.  
  
- Avoid meat from contaminated regions (including wild game).  
  
Another level of defense is explained in the article, *Remove radiation from your produce with Calcium Bentonite Clay*:  
  
"You can add Calcium Bentonite Clay to your milk and drinking water if you're concerned about the possibility of contamination there as well. Add approximately 1 ounce of liquid Calcium Bentonite Clay to a gallon of organic raw milk or water. Some people prefer to let the clay settle to the bottom of the liquid and discard that portion, while others prefer to shake it up and drink them together. Either is fine."  
  
All in all, it truly is a sad state of affairs when the idea of donning a hazmat suit simply to handle our food is not as outrageous as it once had been.  
  
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**Former head of Fukushima nuclear plant dies of cancer**

Friday, July 12, 2013 by: Ethan A. Huff, staff writer  
*Tags:* [*Fukushima*](http://www.naturalnews.com/Fukushima.html)*,* [*nuclear power*](http://www.naturalnews.com/nuclear_power.html)*,* [*cancer*](http://www.naturalnews.com/cancer.html)

Learn more: <http://www.naturalnews.com/041167_Fukushima_nuclear_power_cancer.html#ixzz2ikMif3C0>

(NaturalNews) In an ironic twist of fate, the former head of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power facility in eastern Japan has died, according to new reports. After battling a bout of throat cancer that emerged just months after the stricken plant was overrun by a historic tsunami and subsequent earthquake, 58-year-old Masao Yoshida died at a Tokyo hospital from a condition that many others will likely also develop in the years to come as a result of Fukushima radiation poisoning.  
  
The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), which owns the facility where at least three nuclear reactors either partially or fully melted down, insists that Yoshida's cancer and eventual death were not the result of radiation poisoning from the plant. It would take at least five years, the company has claimed, for radiation from the plant to develop into full-fledged cancer.  
  
But the circumstances surrounding the timing of Yoshida's cancer diagnosis and his work at the plant following the disaster seem to tell a different story. Unlike many other TEPCO officials, Yoshida remained onsite at the failed plant in the days and weeks following the disaster, putting himself at serious risk of developing chronic illness. According to the U.K.'s *Telegraph*, Yoshida led efforts to get the Fukushima plant under control following the disaster, even though aftershocks and a cascade of plant failures threatened to its undoing.  
  
In November 2011, however, just eight months after the initial disaster occurred, Yoshida was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with esophageal [cancer](http://www.naturalnews.com/cancer.html). Not long after, he underwent surgery for this cancer, and subsequently developed a brain hemorrhage, which resulted in him having to have another operation nearly one year later. And less than one year after this second surgery, Yoshida died.  
  
"Yoshida is believed to have prevented the world's worst atomic accident in 25 years after the Chernobyl catastrophe in 1986," reads an *RT.com* piece about Yoshida's work at the plant. "It was Yoshida's own decision to disobey HQ orders to stop using seawater to cool the reactors. Instead, he continued to do so and saved the active zones from overheating and exploding. Had he obeyed the order, the whole of north eastern Japan would possibly have been uninhabitable for decades, if not centuries."

**Fukushima radiation levels high enough to have triggered Yoshida's throat cancer**

In its arbitrary pronouncement that Yoshida's cancer was unrelated to Fukushima radiation, TEPCO failed to acknowledge a key aspect of the disaster -- [radiation](http://www.naturalnews.com/radiation.html) levels were unusually high as a result of all the meltdowns, melt-throughs, and explosions. Of course, TEPCO has long denied the severity of all this, so it is to be expected that the company would also deny that radiation from the plant could have been a cause of Yoshida's cancer.  
  
But it does not take a rocket scientist to connect the dots. Being in insanely close proximity to untold levels of ionizing radiation for all those months was sure to have had an accelerated effect on Yoshida's health, not to mention the health of other onsite workers. This would explain why adults and especially children living in nearby areas of Japan are also developing cancers and other health problems at a much higher rate than normal.  
  
"Even 70 millisieverts is 70 times the yearly dose considered 'safe' for humans," wrote one commenter on an *ENENews.com* article, referring to TEPCO's downplaying of the radiation dose received by Yoshida in the aftermath of the disaster. "This was not even a whole year. And generally TEPCO's estimates can be multiplied by 10. He was 'nuked' for sure."  
  
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**Massive, uncontained leak at Fukushima is pouring over 710 billion becquerels of radioactive materials into atmosphere**

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 by: J. D. Heyes  
*Tags:* [*Fukushima*](http://www.naturalnews.com/Fukushima.html)*,* [*radioactive*](http://www.naturalnews.com/radioactive.html)*,* [*nuclear leak*](http://www.naturalnews.com/nuclear_leak.html)

Learn more: <http://www.naturalnews.com/040058_Fukushima_radioactive_nuclear_leak.html#ixzz2ikN421zO>

(NaturalNews) The tsunami-caused nuclear accident at the Fukushima power station in Japan is the disaster that never ends, as new reports indicate that a wealth of new radioactive materials have been spewed into the atmosphere.  
  
According to Singapore-based news outlet *AsiaOne*, the Tokyo Electric Power Co., which owns the multi-nuclear reactor power station at Fukushima, announced April 6 that some 120 tons of water that had been contaminated with radioactive substances had leaked from an underground storage facility at the No. 1 atomic power plant site.

**Running out of storage room?**

TEPCO officials announced the leak late in the day April 5, a Friday, "but said measures to address the problem had not been taken for two days because the cause had not been identified," *AsiaOne* reported. The company "assumed the water was still leaking."  
  
According to company officials TEPCO estimates that the leaked water contains about 710 billion becquerels of radioactive substances, making it the largest leak of radioactive materials ever at the plant. Discovery of the leak led the company to transfer about 13,000 tons of polluted, radioactive water in the questionable storage area to a neighboring underground storage unit.  
  
That storage unit, TEPCO said, is 60 meters long, 53 meters wide and six meters deep. It is pool-like in structure and has a three-layer waterproof sheet with a concrete cover.  
  
According to the company, water that has leaked from damaged nuclear reactors is run through filters and additional devices in order to remove [radioactive](http://www.naturalnews.com/radioactive.html) elements. The water is then stored in facilities for low-level contaminated water.  
  
TEPCO began using the storage facility Feb. 1. As of April 5, 13,000 tons of radioactive water was being stored there - very close to the 14,000-ton limit.

**More leaking contamination**

*AsiaOne* reported that water samples taken by TEPCO from soil surrounding the damaged facility a few days later showed 35 becquerels per cubic centimeter of radioactive substances, which is abnormal. "Safe" levels of becquerels is 300 per kilogram of [water](http://www.naturalnews.com/water.html), according to *New Scientist*.  
  
However, TEPCO officials did not publicly announce their findings right away after not finding any other unusual changes in water quality data, such as chloride concentration.  
  
On April 5, the report said, two days after the problem was first noticed, water with 6,000 becquerels per cubic centimeter of radioactive substances was located between the first and second layers of the waterproof sheet, which alerted TEPCO engineers and plant officials that a [leak](http://www.naturalnews.com/leak.html) had occurred.  
  
Per *AsiaOne*:  
  
*As the sheet's layers were joined when the facility was constructed, TEPCO assumed that the sheet may have been damaged, or that a mistake had been made during construction. An average of about 400 tons a day of groundwater seeped into buildings housing nuclear reactors and turbines, increasing the quantity of polluted water.*  
  
The latest problem will create a storage shortage; TEPCO officials said storage of polluted water at the facility will be reduced from 53,000 tons to 40,000 - a significant reduction. That will make it necessary for the power company to go over procedures for handling polluted water, which will include increasing the number of storage units.

**The disaster that keeps on giving**

TEPCO said earlier this month it expected the water transfer would take about five days to complete.  
  
"As the height of the water storage facility is relatively low, we think it's unlikely that the polluted water mixed into underground water and reached the sea 800 meters away," said Masayuki Ono, the acting chief of TEPCO's nuclear facilities department, at a press conference April 6.  
  
The plant was damaged by a huge earthquake-caused tsunami March 11, 2011. At the time of the incident, three of the plant's atomic reactors were shut down: No. 4 had been de-fueled and Nos. 5 and 6 were in cold shut-down for maintenance.  
  
The remaining three automatically shut down at the time of the accident and emergency generators came on to keep coolant systems operating.  
  
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