

DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

For more information regarding this HAN, contact your local health department or health agency.

DATE: March 15, 2011



SUBJECT: DPHHS recommendations for Montanans' concern about radiation from Japan

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769

DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov

INSTRUCTIONS:

FORWARD to local Pharmacists and Clinicians

INFORMATION / RECOMMENDATIONS:

DPHHS and local health agencies have received inquiries concerning radiation and any threat Montana may experience if Japanese nuclear power plants fail due to damage from last week's massive earthquake. In a press release from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (attached), U.S. territories are "not expected to experience any harmful levels of radioactivity." As such, Montana does not expect to see any impact if Japanese nuclear plants lose containment of their radioactive material. Therefore, there are no current recommendations for people to take protective measures in Montana or any part of the U.S.

Recommendations:

- Continue to consult the web sites listed below for accurate, up to date information as the situation evolves
- There is no indication for any person in Montana or the US to take protective measures or treatment for radiation release from Japan

DPHHS will continue to monitor information from the Centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and pass relevant information along as it becomes available. At this time, the NRC News Room link below is providing the most up to date information we've been able to find.

For those interested in [monitoring this event and learning more about radiation events](#), the following websites provided useful information:

Centers for Disease Control
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/>

Nuclear Regulatory Commission News Room
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/>

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

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(Revised)

NRC SEES NO RADIATION AT HARMFUL LEVELS REACHING U.S. FROM DAMAGED JAPANESE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is coordinating with the Department of Energy and other federal agencies in providing whatever assistance the Japanese government requests as they respond to conditions at several nuclear power plant sites following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The NRC has sent two boiling-water reactor experts to Japan as part of a U.S. Agency for International Development team.

In response to nuclear emergencies, the NRC works with other U.S. agencies to monitor radioactive releases and predict their path. All the available information indicates weather conditions have taken the small releases from the Fukushima reactors out to sea away from the population. Given the thousands of miles between the two countries, Hawaii, Alaska, the U.S. Territories and the U.S. West Coast are not expected to experience any harmful levels of radioactivity.

During a nuclear event the NRC has requirements to protect populations around reactors. For instance, the U.S. evacuation standard at 10 miles is roughly equivalent to the 20-kilometer distance recommended in Japan. The United States also uses sheltering in place and potassium iodide, protective measures also available in Japan. United States citizens in Japan are encouraged to follow the protective measures recommended by the Japanese government. These measures appear to be consistent with steps the United States would take.

The NRC will not comment on hour-to-hour developments at the Japanese reactors. This is an ongoing crisis for the Japanese who have primary responsibility.

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News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.