

People have died

Don't be fooled: Nuclear power kills

March 11, 2011: Three dead, five still missing at Fukushima

The bodies of two of seven missing workers were found April 3, after reactors at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi complex were destroyed by the 9.0 magnitude earthquake, tsunami and explosions.¹ On Aug. 30, 2011 Tokyo Electric Power Co. said a 40-year-old worker died of acute leukemia after working at Daiichi for seven days, and it claimed that his death is unlikely to be related to his work there.² The quake & tsunami wrecked all the site's radiation monitors and backup generators. Four wrecked reactors will continue to spread radiation worldwide for years.

August 9, 2004: Five killed at Mihama, Japan

At Mihama in Japan, a burst of highly pressurized steam with a temperature of 390°F severely burned 11 workers and killed five others when a 30-inch corroded pipe ruptured and scalded them to death. About 800 tons of water escaped from the burst pipe that had not been inspected in 28 years. The accident was Japan's worst at a nuclear facility. There are 23 similar pressurized water reactors in Japan.³

September 30, 1999: Two killed at Tokaimura, Japan

In Japan, workers at the Tokaimura uranium processing site caused a "uranium criticality burst" that killed two and exposed at least 600 nearby residents in the surrounding community to a burst of neutron radiation. Thousands were evacuated.⁴

March 11, 1997: Unknown deaths after Japanese waste fires at Tokaimura

Explosions and fires contaminated at least 37 workers—34 internally—at Japan's experimental uranium waste treatment site in Tokaimura. Experts said "a massive amount of heat and energy was released" in the explosion at the state-run facility. A lack of medical follow-up for the contaminated workers allows the industry to deny that deaths resulted.⁵

April 26, 1986: Chernobyl killed 958,000 by 2004

The Chernobyl reactor exploded and then burned out of control for 40 days,⁶ spewing radiation to every country in the Northern Hemisphere.⁷ Ukraine's Health Minister Andrei Serdyuk declared in 1995 that his agency's official estimate of Chernobyl's death toll in the former USSR alone was 125,000.⁸

The best international study, *Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment*, 2009, published by the New York Academy of Sciences, concluded that by 2004 about 985,000

deaths were caused across Europe by the disaster—212,000 of them within Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.⁹ The often-quoted Sept. 26, 2005 UN report "Chernobyl Forum" predicted merely 9,000 eventual deaths, but only studied the contamination of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

December 9, 1986: Four more killed at Virginia's Surry reactor

Again at Surry's Unit 2, another burst of pressurized steam burned four people to death after a corroded and uninspected 18-inch steel feed-water pipe broke and sprayed 30,000 gallons of extremely hot pressurized water.¹⁰

March 28, 1979: Three Mile Island caused infant & childhood deaths

Exposure to radioactive fallout and contaminated water released from TMI's partial meltdown caused thousands of premature deaths. Books by Joe Mangano (1999), Jay Gould & Ben Goldman (1990), and Harvey Wasserman (1982) document these fatalities.^{11,12} In areas downwind from TMI, infant deaths soared 53% in the first month after March 1979; 27% in the first year. As originally published, the federal government's *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* shows a statistically significant rise in infant and overall mortality rates shortly after the accident.

Studying 10 counties closest to TMI after the radiation releases, deaths from birth defects were 15-to-35% higher than before the accident, and breast cancer incidence 7% higher. These increases far exceeded those elsewhere in the state. Gould says from 50,000 to 100,000 excess deaths occurred downwind after TMI. Leukemia deaths among kids under 10 (1980-to-1984) jumped almost 50% compared to the national rate in the same areas. From 1980 to 1984, death rates in the three nearest counties were considerably higher for leukemia, female breast, thyroid and bone and joint cancer than from 1970 to 1974 (before TMI started up).

July 27, 1972: Two killed at Surry reactor in Virginia

At Unit 2 of the Surry pressurized water reactor in Virginia, pressurized steam burst through a corroded pipe and scalded two workers to death.¹³

January 3, 1961: Three killed in Idaho

The experimental "SL-1" reactor in Idaho blew apart and killed Army Specialists John Byrnes, and Richard McKinley, and Navy Electrician's Mate Richard Legg. The memorial at Arlington National Cemetery says, "One technician was blown to the ceiling of the containment dome and impaled on a control rod. The men were so heavily exposed to radiation that their hands had to be buried separately with other radioactive waste, and their bodies were interred in lead coffins."¹⁴

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¹ ABC News, April 3; *New Zealand Herald*, & *India Daily*, March 14, 2011.

² Mitsuru Obe, "Radioactive Cesium Found In Wide Areas Around Japan Fukushima Plant," Dow Jones Newswires, Aug. 30, 2011.

³ *New York Times*, Aug. 9, 10 & 11, 2004; UPI, Aug. 9, and AP, Aug. 10, 2004.

⁴ *New York Times*, Aug. 10, 2005.

⁵ CNN, March 11 & 13, 1997; *St. Paul Pioneer*, March 14, 1997; and *Japan Times*, March 15, 1997.

⁶ French Nuclear Energy Agency, "Chernobyl: Assessment of Radiological and Health Impact: The release, dispersion and deposition of radionuclides," April 2002 <nefr/html/rp/chemlbyl/c02.html>

⁷ Fairlie & Sumner, "TORCH: The Other Report on Chernobyl," April 2006, p. 30; and Alexey Yablokov, et al, *Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment*, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Vol. 1181, Blackwell Publishing, Boston 2009, pp. vii, & 1.

⁸ *Los Angeles Times*, April 27, 1995.

⁹ A. Yablokov, et al, note 7, p. 210.

¹⁰ *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Aug. 10, 2004; "U.S. Nuclear Accidents" in <lutins.org/nukes.html>.

¹¹ Joe Mangano, *Low-level Radiation and Immune System Damage: An Atomic Era Legacy*, Lewis Publishers, 1999; and Jay Gould and Benjamin Goldman, *Deadly Deceit: Low Level Radiation High Level Cover-up*, Four Walls Eight Windows, 1990.

¹² Harvey Wasserman and Norman Soloman, "People Died at Three Mile Island," Chapter 14, *Killing Our Own*, Delta books, 1982, pp. 254-263; and Sternglass, "Infant Mortality Changes Following the Three Mile Island Accident," 5th World Congress of Engineers and Architects, Tel Aviv, Dec. 1979.

¹³ Allen Lutins, "U.S. Nuclear Accidents," Dec. 20, 2009 <lutins.org/nukes.html> Work Circle Environmental Protection, Friends of the Earth, *Not Man Apart*, September 1972.

¹⁴ Los Alamos National Laboratory, "Criticality Accidents," May 2000, p. 97 <csirc.net/docs/reports/la-13638.pdf> & <wikipedia.org/wiki/SL-1>.