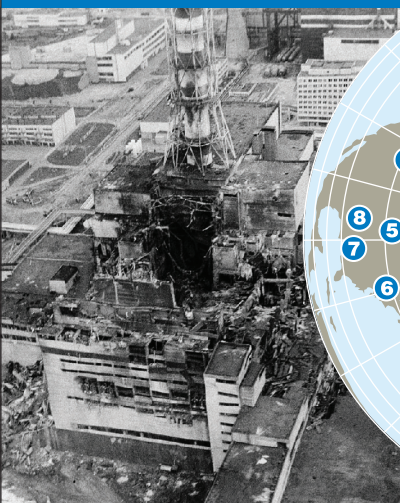


World's worst nuclear disasters



1 Sep 29, 1957: Chelyabinsk-65, Mayak, USSR. Explosion at secret facility in Ural Mountains releases 70-80 tonnes of nuclear waste, 11,000 people evacuated

2 Oct 1957: Windscale, UK. Reactor fire spreads radiation along England's northwest coast. At least 39 people die of cancer as a result

3 Jan 1961: Idaho Falls, U.S. Reactor accident kills three workers

4 Apr 1967: Chelyabinsk-65. 9,000 people evacuated after radiation leak

5 Nov 1971: Minnesota, U.S. 50,000 gallons of radioactive waste water spills into Mississippi River

6 Mar 1979: Three Mile Island, U.S. Equipment failures and human errors lead to partial core meltdown

7 Aug 1979: Erwin, U.S. 1,000 people contaminated by uranium leak

8 Jan 1986: Gore, U.S. Cylinder of nuclear material bursts at Kerr-McGee processing plant, one worker killed

9 Apr 26, 1986: Chernobyl, Ukraine World's worst nuclear disaster – massive explosion spews radiation over Ukraine, Belarus, and northern Europe. Dozens of workers die from radiation sickness, 4,000 cancer deaths attributed to accident

10 Apr 1989: Barents Sea. Soviet submarine *Komsomolets* sinks, leaking plutonium from nuclear torpedo

11 Apr 1993: Severesk, Russia Radioactivity from explosion at plutonium plant leaves several nearby villages permanently uninhabitable

12 Sep 1999: Tokaimura, Japan Workers mixing uranium in buckets trigger nuclear reaction. Two killed, 40 exposed to high levels of radiation

13 Aug 2004: Fukui, Japan. Five killed after being sprayed with super-heated steam from broken pipe at Mihama nuclear power plant

14 Jul 2007: Kashwazaki-Kariwa, Japan. World's biggest nuclear power station damaged by earthquake