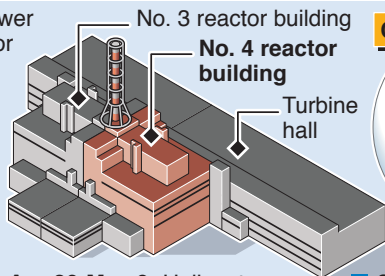


# Construction begins on new Chernobyl shelter

The Chernobyl reactor – scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster 26 years ago – is being entombed in a giant steel shelter. The \$2.2 billion *New Safe Confinement* project is due for completion in 2015, replacing the crumbling concrete sarcophagus erected after the accident

■ **Apr 26, 1986:** Power surge in No. 4 reactor causes explosions, destroying core and blowing off building roof. Radioactive cloud causes 4,000 cancer deaths in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and Europe



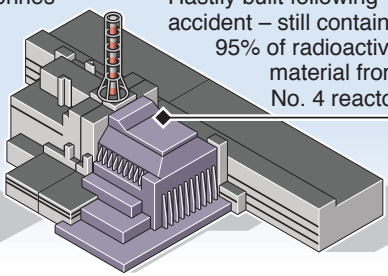
**Chernobyl**



■ **Apr 26-May 9:** Helicopters drop thousands of tonnes of lead and sand to smother fires

**Reactor core**

■ **Sarcophagus**  
Hastily built following accident – still contains 95% of radioactive material from No. 4 reactor



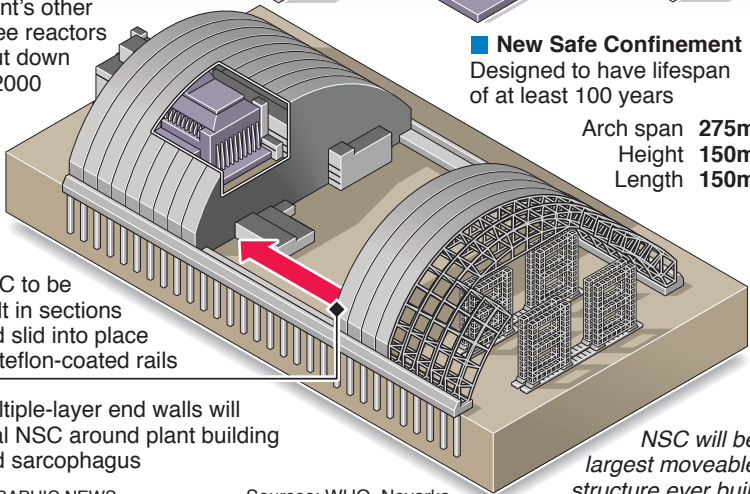
Plant's other three reactors shut down in 2000

■ **New Safe Confinement**  
Designed to have lifespan of at least 100 years

Arch span **275m**  
Height **150m**  
Length **150m**

NSC to be built in sections and slid into place on teflon-coated rails

Multiple-layer end walls will seal NSC around plant building and sarcophagus



*NSC will be largest moveable structure ever built*