

Battle to contain radiation at crippled plant

FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI PLANT

Opened 1971, Capacity 4,700MW

Reactor 3

High radiation and rising smoke could indicate leak from cracked containment vessel

Reactor 1

Considered safe after being flooded with sea water. 70 percent of fuel rods damaged

Reactor 4

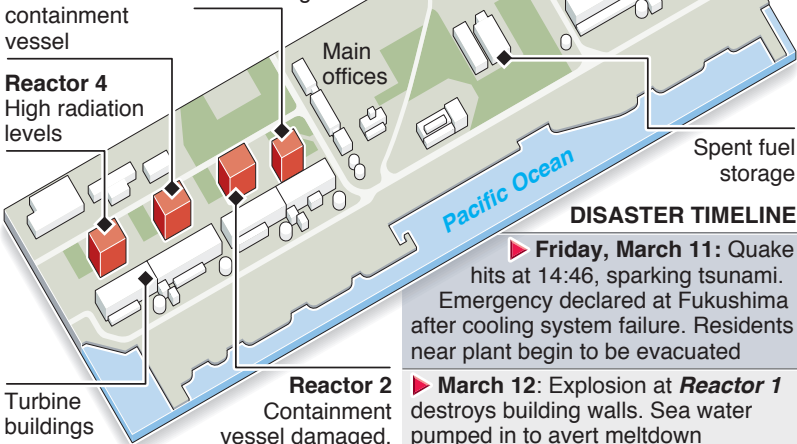
High radiation levels

Reactors 5 and 6

Temperatures rising, water being pumped in

Turbine buildings

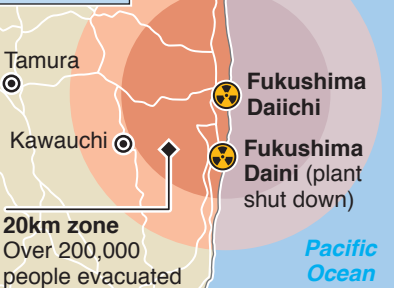
100m
330ft



Turbine buildings

Reactor 2

Containment vessel damaged. Radiation leak possible



DISASTER TIMELINE

► **Friday, March 11:** Quake hits at 14:46, sparking tsunami. Emergency declared at Fukushima after cooling system failure. Residents near plant begin to be evacuated

► **March 12:** Explosion at **Reactor 1** destroys building walls. Sea water pumped in to avert meltdown

► **March 13:** Cooling system at **Reactor 2** fails. Radiation rises to unsafe levels. 20km exclusion zone declared around plant

► **March 14:** Explosion at **Reactor 3**. Officials battle to maintain reactor cooling but fuel rods at Reactor 2 are fully exposed on two occasions

► **March 15:** Blast at **Reactor 2** and fire at **Reactor 4**. Danger zone around plant extended to 30km. Reports of cooling problems in **Reactors 5 and 6**

► **March 16:** Second fire breaks out at Reactor 4. Soaring radiation levels force temporary evacuation of plant workers. Helicopters dump water on plant in effort to cool reactors