

# Japan ups radiation threat at stricken nuclear plant

Japanese authorities have raised the rating of the nuclear crisis at their tsunami-hit plant to Level 5 on a seven-point international scale, putting it on a par with the 1979 Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania

Fukushima Daiichi plant

JAPAN

U.S. officials recommend 80km zone

Tokyo

50km  
30 miles

## Danger zone

20km exclusion area and 20-30km stay-indoors area

Turbine buildings

100m  
330ft

Main offices

Pacific Ocean

## STATUS OF REACTORS

**Reactor 1:** Building roof blown off by explosion on March 12. Partial meltdown is believed to have occurred, releasing small amount of radiation

**Reactor 2:** Explosion on March 15 damaged reactor suppression pool. Partial meltdown is believed to have occurred, releasing some radiation

**Reactor 3:** Explosion on March 14 damaged building and containment vessel. Spent fuel rods may have become exposed to air, releasing radioactive gases

**Reactor 4:** Building damaged by explosion / fires on March 15. Spent fuel rods may have become exposed to air, releasing radioactive gases

**Reactors 5 and 6:** Reactors are shut down and buildings undamaged. Concerns remain that fuel rods could become exposed to air

**Spent fuel storage pool:** Fuel rods may become exposed to air if water level falls

Reactor pressure vessel

Reactor building

Primary containment vessel

**Suppression pool**  
Takes excess steam from reactor