

Japan earthquake and tsunami – one year on

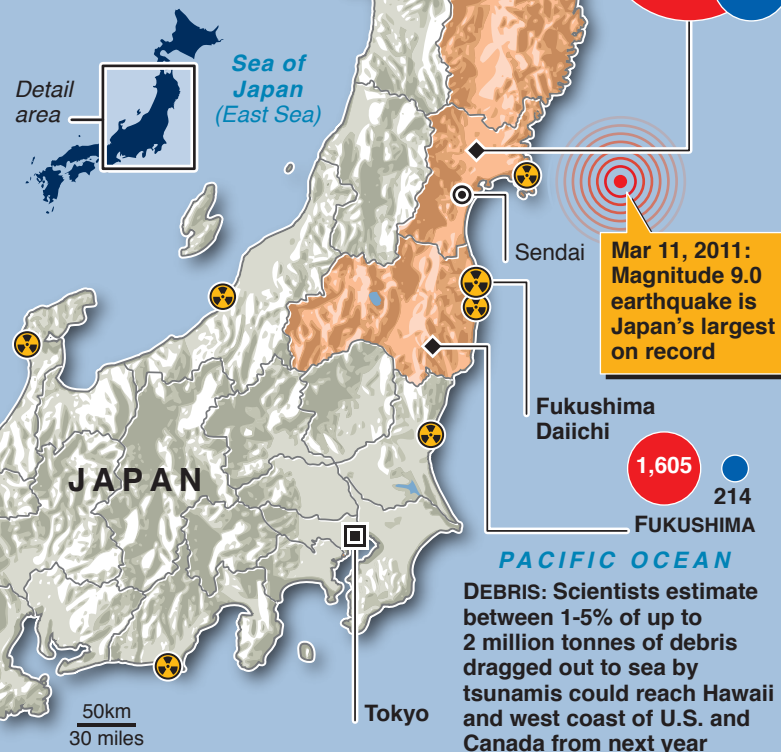
Casualties (As of Mar 5, 2012)

● Dead 15,854
● Missing 3,274

People still living in temporary homes: **320,000**

Waste disposal: **Only 5% of 22.5m tonnes of rubble created by disaster**

☢ **Nuclear plants:** Only two of 54 reactors remain in operation



FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR CRISIS

■ **Mar 11, 2012:** Earthquake and tsunami shut down reactor units 1, 2, 3

■ **Mar 12:** First of series of hydrogen explosions at plant. Evacuation zone expanded to 20km radius – affecting around 160,000 people – 8% of Fukushima prefecture residents

■ **Apr 4:** 11.5 tonnes of water with low levels of radioactivity discharged into sea as part of cooling operations

■ **Apr 12:** Japan raises severity level of accident to maximum 7 on international scale – equal with Chernobyl

■ **Jun 6:** Estimates by Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) put total amount of radiation released into atmosphere at 770,000 terabecquerels – more than double its earlier estimate

■ **Aug 26:** NISA says total of radioactive caesium leaked – 15,000TBq – is about equal to 168 atomic bombs of size dropped on Hiroshima in 1945

■ **Oct 31:** France's nuclear safety institute says 27,000TBq of caesium 137 – 20 times amount estimated by plant operator TEPCO – leaked into sea in biggest discharge of radioactive material into ocean in history

■ **Dec 16:** Japan announces reactors have achieved state of "cold shutdown"

■ **Apr 1, 2012:** Japan is to cut limits of caesium in meat, vegetables and fish from 500 to 100 becquerels per kilogram and milk from 200 to 50Bq/kg. EU increased safe levels in March 2011 to 1,000Bq/kg for milk and 1,250Bq/kg for other foods

■ **May 2013:** UN committee due to publish first independent report showing estimate of total radiation released and forecast of health risks

Debris field: Spreads some 4,000km across Pacific, includes refrigerators, TVs and objects from Japanese fishing industry. **Not thought to be contaminated by radiation**

