

Are Japanese Authorities Covering Up Further Damage to the Fukushima Reactor from the Aftershock ?

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [Asia](#)

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The Japanese government and Tepco nuclear plant operator said that the leaking Fukushima reactors suffered no additional damage in the aftershock last week.

But NHK news [reports](#):

The plant operator says a strong aftershock on Thursday night did not damage any facilities of the compound, but the surface temperature of the Number 1 reactor rose sharply immediately after the tremor that hit northeastern Japan minutes before midnight.

The reading stood at 223 degrees Celsius at 7 PM, but it rose nearly 40 degrees just after the quake. The temperature had fallen back to 240 degrees at 6 AM on Saturday.

Moreover, the Japanese government reports radiation levels in the number 1 reactor of at least [100 sieverts per hour](#):



In contrast, radiation levels were apparently about [300 sieverts per hour](#) - 3 times higher - right after Chernobyl exploded.

However, reactor 1 might not even be in as bad shape as some of the [other reactors at the Fukushima complex](#), the total amount of radioactive material at Fukushima [dwarfs](#) that at Chernobyl, and it might take [years](#) to solve the crisis.

Indeed, Tyler Durden [reports](#) that the Japanese government stopped reporting radiation data after levels hit 100 sieverts per hour.

This isn't entirely unexpected. As the New York Times [notes](#):

The public authorities have sought to avoid grim technical details that might trigger alarm or even panic.

"They don't want to go there," said Robert Alvarez, a nuclear expert who, from 1993 to 1999, was a policy adviser to the secretary of energy. "The spin is all about reassurance."

Confidential reports paint a much less optimistic picture of the crisis. See [this](#) and [this](#).

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