

# Fukushima: Massive Leaks and Radioactive Fallout Continuing On a Daily Basis ... For Years On End

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Environment](#)

## Is Fukushima Leaking ... Or Are the the Reactors Wholly Uncontained?

You may have heard that Tepco - the operator of the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plants - [announced](#) a [large leak](#) of radioactive water.

You may have heard that the cooling system in the spent fuel pools at Fukushima has [failed for a second time in a month](#).

This is newsworthy stuff ... but completely misses the big picture.

Japanese experts say that Fukushima is currently releasing up to [93 billion becquerels of radioactive cesium](#) into the ocean *each day*.

How much radiation is this?

A quick calculation shows that it is about ten thousand times less than the amounts released by Chernobyl [during the actual fire](#) at the Russian nuclear plant. But the Chernobyl fire only last 10 days ... and the Fukushima release has been ongoing for more than 2 years so far.

Indeed, Fukushima has already spewed much more radioactive [cesium](#) and [iodine](#) than Chernobyl. The amount of radioactive cesium released by Fukushima was some [20-30 times higher](#) than initially admitted.

Fukushima also pumped out huge amounts of radioactive [iodine 129](#) - which has a half-life of [15.7 million years](#). Fukushima has also dumped up to [900 trillion becquerels of radioactive strontium-90](#) - which is a powerful internal emitter which [mimics calcium and collects in our bones](#) - into the ocean.

And the amount of radioactive fuel at Fukushima [dwarfs Chernobyl](#) ... and so could keep leaking for decades, centuries or millenia.

Tepco graphics of the Fukushima plants even appear to show water [directly flowing](#) from the plant to the ocean. See this and [this](#).

The bottom line is that the reactors have [lost containment](#). There are not "some leaks" at Fukushima. "Leaks" imply that the reactor cores are safely in their containment buildings, and there is a small hole or two which need to be plugged. But scientists [don't even know where the cores of the reactors are](#). That's not leaking. That's [even worse than a total](#)

[meltdown](#).

So what are the consequences for people living outside of Fukushima itself?

They [could](#) be [quite severe](#), [indeed](#).

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