

# Two Japanese Nuclear Reactors Have Melted Down

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Global Research, March 13, 2011

washingtonsblog.com 13 March 2011

Region: [Asia](#)

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Early this morning, the Fukushima I nuclear power plant melted down:

And see [this](#).

Now, MSNBC [reports](#):

A partial meltdown is likely under way at second quake-stricken nuclear reactor [the Fukushima III reactor], Japan's top government spokesman said Sunday.

Fuel rods were briefly exposed and radiation levels briefly rose above the legal limit at the nuclear plant where both reactors are located, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

His statement came after Japan's largest electric utility started releasing steam Sunday at the second nuclear reactor while trying to stop a meltdown that began a day earlier in another.

Hopefully, the problems at the [other 3 troubled Japanese nuclear reactors](#) are contained.

Many experts have said the disaster is not as bad as Chernobyl. But Forbes' William Pentland [notes](#), nuclear expert Kevin Kamp says:

"Given the large quantity of irradiated nuclear fuel in the pool, the radioactivity release could be worse than the Chernobyl nuclear reactor catastrophe of 25 years ago."

And the Telegraph [writes](#):

Tokyo, at least, appeared to have got away without the scale of casualties seen in other parts of Japan. That was before news of an explosion, and warnings of a possible "meltdown", at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. As the evening turned to night, the world's second-largest metropolis was still waiting to know whether it had been exposed to what would be perhaps the world's worst nuclear disaster.

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