

Quake Triggers Evacuation of Residents Surrounding Fukushima-1 NPS

After a massive earthquake struck northeast Japan at 2:46 p.m. on March 11, Fukushima Prefecture issued an evacuation directive at 9:00 p.m. to residents living within a 2-km radius of the Fukushima-I Nuclear Power Station (NPS). The Fukushima-I-2 NPS suffered a loss of feeding water for its cooling system, caused by the cutoff of power supply.

However, the reactor core still has a sufficient amount of water for cooling, with no danger of the nuclear fuel being exposed. Several emergency generator vehicles have rushed to the scene to provide the necessary power for the water supply.

At a press conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano stressed that while there was no confirmation of radiation leaking from the reactor, with sufficient time remaining for its restoration, the government would direct residents living with a 3-km radius to evacuate, and other residents living outside that limit but within a 10-km radius would be urged to stand by at home.

Editor: Mio Kimuro, JAIF