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## Nuke plant lost spent fuel pump in suspected fire

RAY HENRY, Associated Press  
Updated 03:24 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, 2011

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ATLANTA (AP) — A nuclear power plant in Nebraska briefly lost the pump used to cool spent nuclear fuel during a suspected electrical fire.

Utility officials said the fire Tuesday damaged an electrical system used to run a pump at the **Fort Calhoun Station** that recirculates water in a pool holding hot, radioactive nuclear fuel that has been used.

The pump was out of commission for an hour before the system was restored. **Omaha Public Power District** spokesman **Mike Jones** said the company had backup equipment but didn't need to use it. Jones initially said that plant operators deliberately took the pump offline to respond to the fire.

If a pool pump fails for several days and is not fixed, cooling water could boil away and eventually cause radioactive releases.

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