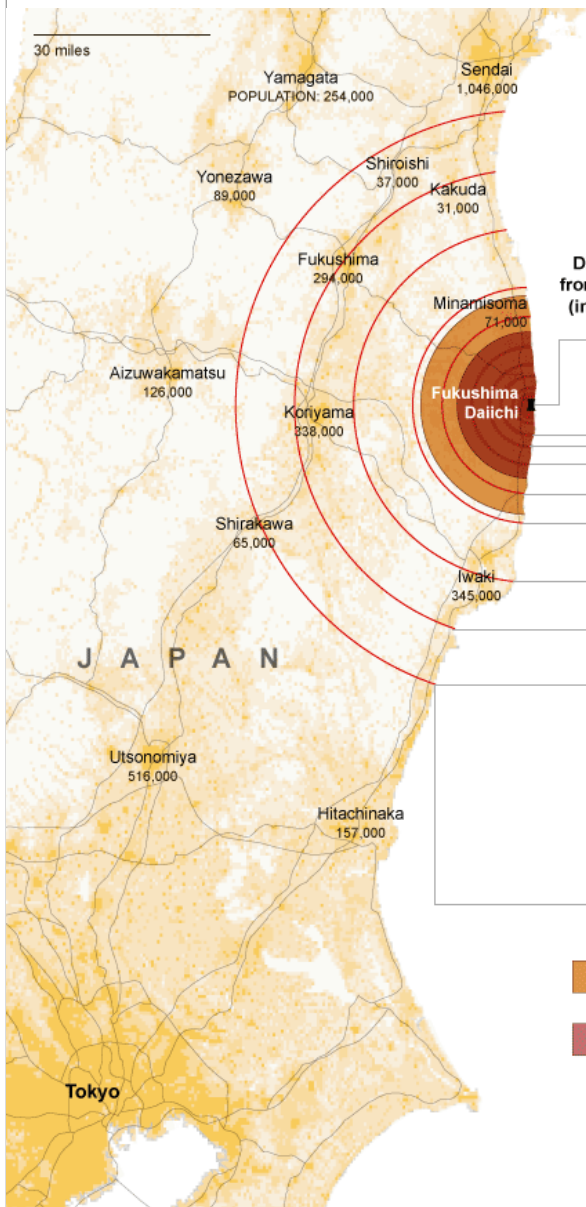


UPDATED March 25, 2011

The Evacuation Zones Around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant



Estimates of Possible Exposure Define U.S. Evacuation Zone

The American Embassy recommended on March 17 that Americans within 50 miles of the Fukushima reactors evacuate. The recommendation was based on an analysis by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that predicts possible radiation levels assuming conditions at the plant degrade. It is not based on current radiological conditions. It includes factors like whether containment vessels remain intact and weather patterns, among others. Here are the results of the analysis on March 16.

Distance from plant (in miles)	Possible radiation exposure (in rems)	Possible effects	Population before earthquake
0.5	5,400	Death within weeks	29,000
1.0	1,500		
1.5	670	Possible death in 2 months	33,000
2.0	390		
3.0	180		
5.0	75	Bleeding from mouth, throat Nausea, vomiting, hair loss	37,000
7.0	40		
10.0	14		
15.0	15		
20.0	13	Blood chemistry changes	50,000
30.0	11		
40.0	10		
50.0	10		
50.0	10		
			979,000
			571,000

Japanese and American Evacuation Zones

About 2 million people live within 50 miles of the plant. This is a much larger than the area established by the Japanese, who have advised everyone within 19 miles to evacuate.

50-mile evacuation zone recommended by U.S. Embassy
2 million residents

12-19 mile evacuation zone, started March 25	Recommended by Japanese government
62,000 residents	
12-mile evacuation zone	
77,000 residents	



By AMANDA COX, MATTHEW ERICSON and ARCHIE TSE | Send Feedback

Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Environmental Protection Agency; Robert Meck, health physicist, Science and Technology Systems; LandScan 2009 population dataset/UT-Battelle (population estimates)

- RECOMMEND
- TWITTER
- SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

SHARE

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Autos](#) | [Site Map](#)
[© 2011 The New York Times Company](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Terms of Sale](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertise](#)