

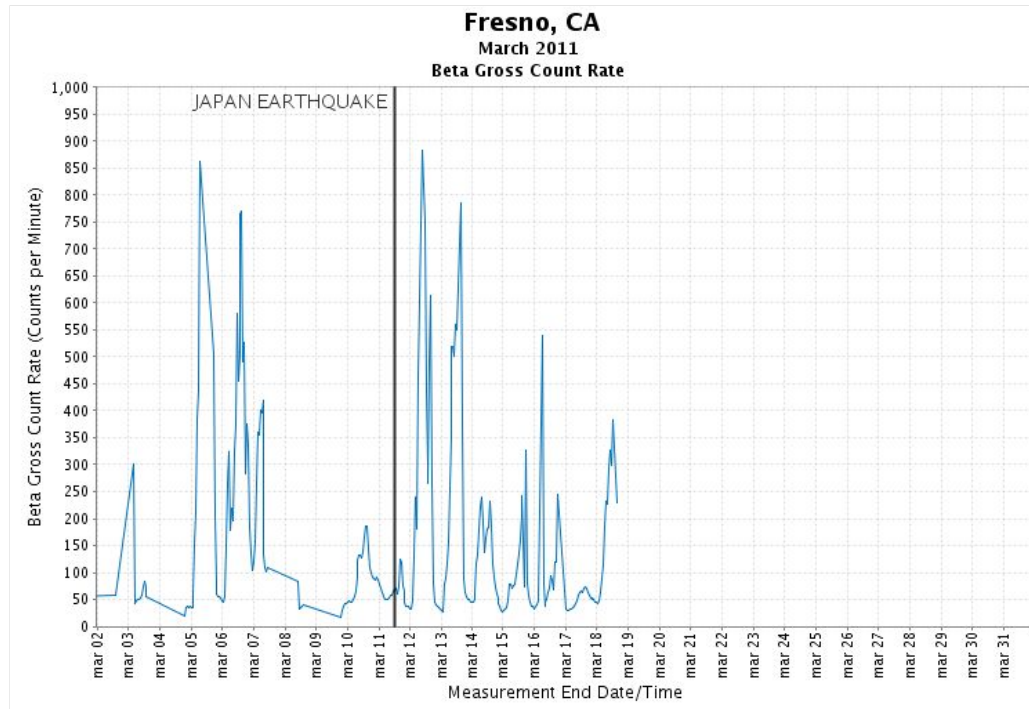


Japanese Nuclear Emergency: Radiation Monitoring

To-date, levels recorded at this monitor have been thousands of times below any conservative level of concern.

The variations in beta gross count rate data at the Fresno, CA, location are due to interference from radio frequency that started before the earthquake in Japan. Radio frequency interference can be caused by a nearby radio or television broadcasting system or cell phone towers. The beta information from this monitor will be temporarily unavailable while we address this issue.

The gamma monitor is still reporting accurate data. Gamma data helps scientists determine the type of radioactive material present in the air. As is true with all of our fixed RadNet monitors nationwide, the Fresno monitor shows typical fluctuations in background radiation levels. The levels detected are far below levels of concern.



The beta gross count rate measures the radiation from all radionuclides that emit beta particles, which is indicated by the term *gross* or *total*. The term *count rate* tells us how quickly beta particles are being detected, which indicates how much radioactivity the monitor is seeing.

Notes on the Data

- Brief gaps in RadNet data represent instrument error.
- Larger gaps (>1 day) occasionally appear when RadNet monitors are taken offline for servicing.
- A notice is posted when monitors are off-line for servicing. A blank graph indicates that one part of a meter on the monitor is not working.
- Electrical interference can cause spikes, shown on graphs as one point significantly higher than the rest of the data.
- As you view data, be aware that there are often large differences in normal background radiation among the monitoring locations because background radiation levels depend on altitude and the amount of naturally occurring radioactive elements in the local soil. What is natural in one location is different from what is natural in another.

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The gamma data measures radiation from all radionuclides that emit gamma rays and splits them into ranges of energy. The word *gross*, or *total*, indicates that the measurement is from all gamma emitting radionuclides. Not all gamma rays have the same amount of energy. Breaking the data into discrete energy ranges helps scientists to determine which radionuclides may be present.

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