

A ten years have passed in Japan but time has stood still frozen at 2:46 pm the exact moment a massive earthquake struck northeastern Japan and led to one of the worst nuclear disasters of all time. On the 11th of March 2011 a magnitude 9.1 earthquake struck which caused a tsunami killing more than fifteen thousand people and led to a meltdown at Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. The earthquake that Japan encountered this time was the strongest that Japan had seen for a thousand years even bigger than the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923. It was so powerful that Japan's coastline moved eight feet to the east and sank three feet down. It set off aftershocks around the world. Tremors were felt as far as Beijing, United States and Cuba. The tsunami flooded the nuclear power plant results massive overheating and reactors one two and three suffered meltdowns. When the power supply failed operators lost control of the plants and a hydrogen explosion blew the roof and walls off reactor 4. Chernobyl was an explosion inside the reactor core but Fukushima was different in that it was an explosion in the reactor building there was a partial meltdown. Hydrogen gas was vented out of the core and then it was that hydrogen gas that exploded. So the radioactivity we see in the environment from Fukushima is volatile elements that came out of the reactor as it was overheating and melting down. Japan classified the event as a level seven the same as Chernobyl meaning it was a major release of radiation with widespread health and environmental effects. Following the explosion, the government set up an exclusion zone prohibiting residents from living within 20 kilometers of the plant.