

Radiation from nuclear event in Japan

How much radioactivity do you expect to come to Alaska from Japan's reactors?

Although trace levels of radioactive isotopes from the damaged Fukushima power plant have been detected in Alaska, we don't expect harmful levels of radioactivity to reach our state, Hawaii or the West Coast, and there's no health risk at this time. Japan is thousands of miles from our state, and if radioactivity from the reactors is released it would be expected to be thinned-out by the winds before it could reach us. We could see a very small increase in radiation levels – well below levels that would be a health concern. We're working with federal, state, and local agencies in a coordinated effort to monitor radiation levels in Alaska.

Would increased radiation levels cause health effects in Alaskans?

There is no indication at this time that enough radioactive material would cross the ocean to cause any health effects to Alaska residents.

Is there any indication that radiation could impact our food supply in Alaska?

No, there is no immediate or anticipated indication of harmful radiation reaching Alaska or its waters, therefore all seafood and other food items produced in Alaska are safe to consume.

Should radioactive material reach the U.S., the appropriate federal and local agencies will let people know about any contaminated sources of food.

What action should I be taking now?

The best action for the citizens of Alaska to take at this time is to be prepared for the event of an earthquake or tsunami event. Update and refresh your home preparedness kit and family preparedness plan.

Please reconsider before littering !

The Time it takes Litter to Decompose...

Paper	2~5 Months
Orange Peels	6 Months
Milk Cartons	5 Years
Cigarette Butts	20 Years
Plastic Bags	15-20 Years
Leather Shoes	20-45 Years
Nylon Cloth	30-40 Years
Plastic containers	150-200 Years
Aluminum	80-100 Years
Styrofoam	Never

6 Interesting facts about our surrounding wildlife.

- **A SINGLE PORCUPINE IS KNOWN TO KILL 100 TREES IN ONE WINTER. IT USES IT'S SHARP CLAWS TO CLIMB A TREE, SITS ON A LIMB TO GNAW AWAY AT THE BARK AND TWIGS AND THEN STUFFS THEM ALL INTO ITS MOUTH AT ONCE. BECAUSE OF IT'S LIKING FOR BARK, THE PORCUPINE CAUSES MUCH DAMAGE TO FORESTS.**
- **A PORCUPINE LOVES SALT SO MUCH THAT IT WOULD WALK INTO A CAMP AND GNAW ON ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY SALT OR EVEN BY PERSPIRING HANDS.**
- **THERE ARE ONLY 2 ANIMALS THAT CAN LOOK BEHIND THEM WITHOUT TUNING ITS HEAD ARE A RABBIT AND A PARROT.**
- **HUMMINGBIRDS ARE THE ONLY BIRDS THAT CAN FLY BACKWARDS.**
- **THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMAL IN THE WORLD IS THE HOUSEHOLD FLY. BECAUSE OF ITS HABITS OF VISITING ANIMAL WASTE, THEY TRANSMIT MORE DISEASES THEN ANY OTHER ANIMAL.**
- **OCTOPUSES HAVE THREE HEARTS, TWO PUMP BLOOD THROUGH EACH OF THE TWO GILLS WHILE THE THIRD PUMPS BLOOD THROUGH THE BODY.**

Did you know ? That each person in the United States throws away 1 ton of garbage per year. The cities and county create 170 million pounds of household garbage and waste water sludge each year. We use more then 67 million tons of paper each year. Which makes about 580 Pounds per person. Each pound of aluminum makes 32 cans. About 90% of the contents of our bins can be reused or recycled. Think twice before throwing away trash, we can do a lot more for our beautiful village and keeping our land, rivers and beaches pristine is a wonderful way to keep Alaska looking beautiful.

Public's help sought in halting disease among marine mammals.

Federal and state wildlife biologists are seeking help from Alaska residents and visitors in finding out what is causing a disease among ice seals and walrus in the 49th state.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries, along with numerous Alaskan and international partners, are investigating a disease first reported last summer by coastal subsistence communities in the Arctic and Bering Sea regions. Hunters reported ice seals with abnormal hair loss and skin sores. Some of the seals exhibited unusual behavior by not fleeing when approached by humans. Increased death has been observed among affected ice seals.

USFWS biologists reported similar symptoms in walrus last fall at the Point Lay haul-out in northwestern Alaska.

In December, the government agencies declared the disease an unusual mortality event. Subsistence harvest of seals by Alaska Natives is legal and of significant nutritional and cultural importance. Reports from subsistence communities have been crucial to the research effort into understanding this disease. Through the winter months, subsistence hunters reported many healthy seals and walrus, though some affected seals were also harvested.

Reports from hunters have been crucial to the research effort into this disease. Every report of a sick seal will help the investigation into what is affecting Alaska's ice seals.

If you are on the coast in Alaska and spot a sick seal, do not approach the seal, as harassment of seals by the general public is unlawful under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Use binoculars to get a closer look at the animal and report any marine mammals with abnormal hair loss, skin sores and sluggish behavior to the NOAA Fisheries Alaska Marine Mammal stranding Hotline at 1-877-925-7773

A Fun Twist with Twist Eco-friendly Sponges

Here is a new Twist on an old product. These sponges are eco-friendly and bird-friendly. All of the Twist Products are made from 100% cellulose which they get from renewable tree farms. That means they are 100% biodegradable. According to twist, their Euro Sponge Cloth will disappear in 7 weeks if buried in soil. Twist is also committed to Green production, putting 99.97% of all waste created back into the sponges. To top it all off the biodegradable paperboard packaging can be recycled or turned into little bird feeders.



The Twist line includes the "Naked Sponge" which contains no dye, the "Loofah Sponge" which provides a natural abrasive scrubbing pad, and the "Euro Sponge" & "Euro Sponge Cloth" that sustainably and naturally take the place of paper towels. One TWIST Euro Sponge Cloth is equivalent to 17 rolls of paper towels and lasts 25 times as long as a traditional terry bar rag, plus the whole line is anti-bacterial & dishwasher safe.



You can buy Twist products at Whole Foods & other retailers.

Felt-soled boots banned statewide in Alaska Starting January 1st, 2012

If you're planning to do any fresh-water sport fishing in Alaska this year, don't forget to leave your felt-soled wading shoes at home. A statewide ban on absorbent fabric or felt-soled wading gear is now in effect.

The ban had previously been enacted in Southeast Alaska, but the rule took effect in fresh water statewide on Jan 1, 2012.

Below is a reminder from an Alaska Department of Fish and Game [announcement](#).

Anglers are reminded that effective January 1, 2012, footgear with absorbent felt or other fibrous material on the soles are prohibited while sport fishing in the fresh waters of Alaska. The regulation was adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2010, to reduce the potential for introduction and spread of invasive organisms, including plants, into Alaska waters. Invasive organisms spread by contaminated waders and other gear, can threaten resident fish stocks and important fish habitat.

Wading boots are not the only means of transporting invasive species; all fishing, boating, or recreational equipment exposed to aquatic invasive species are potential carriers.

CLEAN - Rinse and remove any mud, sediment, and/or plant debris from all gear, boats, and boat trailers, floatplane rudders and floats, and anything that comes into contact with the water. Separate all pieces of wading footgear and waders (remove liners, etc.) to check for and remove visible mud, sediment and/or plant debris before leaving the area. Use a stiff bristle brush to clean all fishing gear.

DRAIN - Empty all water from coolers, bilge pumps, buckets, and wring out gear before leaving the boat launch or fishing areas.

DRY - Completely dry gear between systems or trips.

DECONTAMINATE - If drying is not possible, either freeze gear until solid or wash gear in water heated to 130°F. If drying, freezing or heating gear is not feasible, use a 2 percent bleach solution to clean gear away from fresh water recreation sites. Spray or rinse gear for one minute. A 2 percent bleach solution can be made easily by mixing 2.5 oz. of chlorine bleach with tap water to make 1 gallon of solution. NOTE: Bleach solutions may degrade gear made of absorbent materials. Please rinse gear on land, away from fresh water fishing areas and dispose of disinfectants as indicated on the label.

PLEASE REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES BY CALLING: 1-877-INVASIV

Let Earth Day 2012 Inspire You!

Earth day is meant to inspire the public to take better care of the environment and learn to take pride in the environment. The original Earth Day was used as a teaching day to get the public more informed about the environmental impact humans were making.

Since then, the basic message of the day is the same, but it has been taken much further. Since this original celebration Earth Day has become an international holiday. Several environmental groups have also started participating in an Earth week.

During this week, these organizations host several different programs that educate their communities about the different aspects of Earth and how to take better care of Earth. Each year, Earth Day celebrations have become more and more elaborate with an ever increasing audience.

Each year different activities are held to acknowledge Earth Day. Each participating country holds their own activities which can be seen on the international Earth Day webpage. Last year, groups across the globe began to enter into active communication with their government officials concerning environmental policy. These groups began to make moves toward getting schools and business to recycle as well as take other actions towards preserving our environment.

Many countries also began environmental education programs for children so environmental conservation would start at a younger age. The Earth Day Network also teamed up with different religious groups which encouraged their congregations to become more environmentally friendly.

Other, more recreational, activities are also held each year in different parts of the world. Many national parks hold nature walks in hopes that these will inspire more environmental responsibility. Other groups organize clean-ups to clear trash and make the environment more livable.

A big push for more child appropriate programs has also been seen throughout recent years. Nearly every community holds some sort of Earth Day activity. All you have to do is read the local newspaper to find out more. *Earth Day 2012* events are nearly always posted far in advance, you just have to look for them.

EARTH DAY

April 22, 2012



The Port Graham ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

has 2 openings for members

the PG Environmental Program
would like to fill these positions
as soon as possible

the EHC members meet once a
month
to talk about environmental issues in
our community and are paid a sti-
pend

Please CONTACT Violet Yea-
ton at the

Port Graham Village Council
(907) 284-2227

The HEA "Kick inCan" Project is still in progress. We can still trade out your light bulbs. If you have any old light bulbs you can trade them for the CFL light bulbs. Bring them by the council office during office hours, and make the trade for more energy efficient and longer lasting bulbs. There is no income limit, so everyone is encouraged to participate. **"KICK inCan" PROJECT**

Have you upgraded the light bulbs in your house to CFLs or LEDs? Now, you're staring at a pile of incandescent light bulbs and wondering what to do with them bring them to the PGVC to Moriahs office for more energy efficient light bulbs that will save you money on your electric bill.

Interesting Fact : One ton of carbon dioxide that is released in the air can be prevented by replacing every 75 watt light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs.

PORT GRAHAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

PORT GRAHAM VILLAGE COUNCIL

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Local Box Holder

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- **Violet Yeaton/Environmental Planner**
- **Port Graham High School Students**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CLOTH BAGS WHEN YOU SHOP.



Thank You!

HEY! if you have any extra cloth bags, you can donate them to the stores (and they, in turn, can loan them out when needed, instead of using paper bags or plastics.