No-go zone designation lifted for part of Namie town

TOKYO — The Fukushima prefectural government on Monday morning updated the safety status of the town of Namie, lifting its no-go zone designation.

The news follows the release last month of a Google Street View video showing the remains of the devastated town which lies within 20 kilometers of the stricken Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant. Namie has now been divided into several zones, which have been redesignated to allow entry for rebuilding and clean-up operations to begin.

The prefectural government said that central Namie, where around 80% of the town’s 20,000 inhabitants lived, will be made accessible during the day. However, the western part of the town will remain off-limits, Fuji TV reported.

The prefectural government formerly announced a plan to reopen the town within three years, but analysts have pointed out that a vast amount of decontamination work and rebuilding of the local infrastructure has yet to be completed.

Japan Today

6 Comments (Leave a Comment)

Disillusioned APR. 01, 2013 - 03:52PM JST
I guess this is good news for the residents, but I am curious as to how many of the residents gave the confidence to believe the safety reports and return.

Cricky APR. 01, 2013 - 04:13PM JST
If they say it safe, apart from a few streets it must be safe! Why wouldn’t, how could a government lie to it’s own people Japan in a democratic nation that holds companies and government services accountable for actions taken. Do not tell anyone...that’s the secret.

CrisGerSan APR. 01, 2013 - 04:32PM JST
Reliable experts have said that there is no radiation problem that the level of radiation present is less that what is normally found in most parts of the USA. Being overly cautious is politically correct but devastating on the hundreds of thousands of people still being forced away from their homes which are perfectly safe. I hope people wake up to the truth and can go home.

Disillusioned APR. 01, 2013 - 06:49PM JST
I guess you haven’t been in Japan long nor have a knowledge of recent Japanese history. Go to Wikipedia and look up Minamata to start with. Then you could try more recent history of the government covering up the severity of the 3/11 meltdown.

Ranger_Miffy2 APR. 01, 2013 - 07:46PM JST
Prety sure Cricky was hitting the Sarcasm button...

Kimokekahuna Hawai APR. 01, 2013 - 08:04PM JST
this is just a ploy to make people think that all is ok...nothing to worry about. I wonder how Japanese government handled Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
Nancy Foust

"Reliable experts have said that there is no radiation problem that the level of radiation present is less than what is normally found in most parts of the USA."

Maybe the parts of the USA at the Hanford nuclear site or the Nevada test site? No, the levels in the evac zone are far higher than places in the US. Your "experts" are not reliable.

APR. 01, 2013 - 09:12PM JST