

[Home > News](#)

[PRINT](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Sunday, March 20, 2011

Tokyo tap water has trace level of radiation

Kyodo News

The science ministry said Saturday a minuscule amount of radioactive substances was detected in tap water in Tokyo, as well as Tochigi, Gunma, Chiba and Saitama prefectures.

It is believed the water carried traces of radioactive iodine. Meanwhile, traces of radioactive cesium were also found in tap water in Tochigi and Gunma.

In addition, milk and spinach from areas near the crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant have also been found with radiation above the regulated standards, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said the same day.

Edano, however, said the levels of radiation detected do not immediately pose a risk to human health and asked consumers to remain calm.

"It's not as if you would be harmed if you ate it right away," he said. "It would be harmful to continue to eat it for some time."

The milk from the town of Kawamata, Fukushima Prefecture, was collected between Wednesday and Friday, and the contaminated spinach, from six municipalities in Ibaraki Prefecture, was picked Friday, according to the health ministry.

Edano said the government will investigate.

Vice Health Minister Kohei Otsuka said that if confirmed, sales of the contaminated products will be stopped and they will be recalled.

Dairy farmers in Fukushima Prefecture, whose businesses were already rocked by the March 11 quake and tsunami, were shocked by the finding.

A 63-year-old woman who takes care of about 80 milk cows in the town of Kawamata said she wondered what would happen to her farm, which has already been forced to suspend operations due to a lack of fuel for transporting

the milk.

Other people involved in dairy farming in Fukushima said they fear baseless rumors will spread that all dairy products from the region are contaminated with deadly substances.

[PRINT](#)

[E-MAIL](#)

[Tweet](#) 0
[Like](#) 0

 We welcome your opinions. [Click to send a message to the editor.](#)

The Japan Times
(C) All rights reserved

Article 2 of 10 in National news
[Previous](#) [Next](#)

Antinuclear protest in front of PM N...
1:28



JT thejapantimes
Subscribe 



[Poll](#) [Most read stories](#) [Editors' picks](#)

A piece of your mind

Scared or prepared?

The government [upped its casualty estimate for a killer quake-tsunami combo](#) by more than a factor of 10. What's your take?

- Forewarned is forearmed. This information will save lives.**
- All this does is scare people. It's not helpful.**
- It's inspired me to think more seriously about possible evacuation routes.**
- Numbers like these aren't much more than a guess.**

VOTE

Total Votes : 1778

[View past polls](#)