

## News release

**March 23, 2011**

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## **Scant radiation from Japan measured by Oregon state monitors**

***Radiation monitoring within expected levels - no health risk to Oregonians***

Oregon radiation monitors continue to confirm that no radiation levels of concern have reached the United States.

Oregon Public Health officials studying an Environmental Protection Agency air monitor in Portland have detected minuscule levels of iodine 131, which is radiation connected with Japan's nuclear emergency. Low levels of iodine 131 have been expected on the West Coast as a result of events in Japan. This more detailed analysis confirms there continues to be no health risk to people in Oregon. The tiny amounts of radioactive iodine are far lower than levels that cause health concerns.

"Our finding is consistent with findings in Washington and California. We have expected to find trace amounts of the isotopes released from the Japanese plant. There is no health risk," says Gail Shibley, administrator of the Office of Environmental Public Health, Oregon Public Health Division.

These results are consistent with findings reported by federal, California, Washington and Canadian partners. Because of the nearly 5,000-mile distance from Japan combined with air diffusion, radiation reaching our state is so diluted that there is no health risk here, making protective action unnecessary.

The EPA reports that in a typical day, Americans receive doses of radiation from natural sources such as rocks, bricks and the sun that are about 100,000 times higher than what has been detected coming from Japan. For example, the levels coming from Japan are 100,000 times lower than what you get from taking a roundtrip international flight.

Public Health officials continue to track general radiation levels in Oregon; that information is available to the public. To view daily measurements, click here:  
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/Preparedness/CurrentHazards/Pages/DailyAirMonitoring.aspx>.

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