



Comments Regarding Food and Housing After the Fukushima Dai-chi Nuclear Accident

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The analysis contained in this flash report is based on the limited amount of information currently available. It may be subject to subsequent revisions, for it documents a current event where information may change rapidly as it progresses.

Fukushima nuclear accidents have caused the leakage of radioactive materials from reactors and spent fuel storage pools, and they have been released into the environment. Accordingly, foods with radioactive concentration exceeding the governmental safety limits have been detected and reported.

Measures have been taken so that the contaminated food exceeding governmental safety limits will not be put on market, and the radioactivity concentration of various foods has continually been measured by authorities. However, it was recently revealed that beef with radioactivity concentration higher than the safety limit has been shipped to the market. The livestock feed was found to be radioactively contaminated, and further investigation is imperative. The national safety limit value for all food and drinks is the threshold amount of radioactively contaminated food intake in a given year without health risk. Therefore, incidentally consuming food exceeding the safety limit will not pose a health risk, unless continually consuming those with excessive radioactivity concentration. Needless to say, consuming food under the safety limits is completely harmless.

At the early stage of the accident, preventing inhalation of radioactive materials in the air was considered effective. It lowered exposed dose, since radioactive materials released from the plant were floating around, and those landed onto the land surface were easily lifted into the air, especially right after they landed. Currently, the amount of radioactive materials released from the troubled plant has drastically decreased. Furthermore, the surface deposition of most radioactive materials, released immediately after the nuke accident, indicates that they are not easily lifted into the air. Thus, we could say as of right now that absorption of radioactive materials by inhalation would not raise public concerns. Unless you see gyrating dust outside, opening windows or hanging laundries out would pose no health risks. Long-sleeved



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clothes are also unnecessary.

As for the current evacuation areas and planned evacuation areas, the concentration of radioactive materials and dose rate will be measured after the condition of Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant is stabilized. This follows the confirmation that radioactive materials leakage is stopped and there will be no additional leaks from the plant. Should the contamination above a certain level is detected, de-contamination is done as necessary, which will eventually restore ordinary lives.

* 0317 Part 3

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW)-released information for local government with Indices of Ingestion Restriction prepared by Nuclear Safety Commission. Japanese language only.

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2r9852000001558e-img/2r9852000001559v.pdf>