













Reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded on April 26, 1986 at 1:23 A.M.

The Russian Authorities estimated that 50 to 80 million curies of ionizing radiation were released into the atmosphere. In 1989, *Time* Magazine reported that the number was probably closer to "one billion or more" curies.

One curie is the amount of radiation equal to the disintegration of 37 billion atoms per second.



The human embryo and fetus are particularly sensitive to ionizing radiation, and the health consequences of exposure can be severe, even at radiation doses too low to immediately affect the mother. Such consequences can include bodily malformations, impaired brain function, and cancer.