

# Chernobyl Disaster

## Fact Sheet

1. Chernobyl Disaster happened in the evening of the 20th April, 1986 — the world's worst nuclear accident — was caused by a technical error.
2. The accident happened at the Chernobyl Power Plant near the city Pripyat south of the Ukrainian SSR
3. The power plant failed 3 safety tests in previous years. Despite this the scientific manager or designer or the reactor were not involved in this fourth attempt. The director of the plant was informed, but even his approval didn't follow proper procedures.
4. The Chernobyl Union of Ukraine, a non-government body, estimates the present death toll from the disaster at almost 525,000
5. Despite the death of two people in the explosions, the hospitalisation of workers and firefighters and the danger from fallout and fire, no one in the surrounding areas was evacuated until about 36 hours after the disaster began.
6. Residents were told that the move was temporary and would be allowed back to their homes
7. Following the disaster, the Soviet Union created a circle-shaped exclusion zone with a radius of about 18.6 miles (30 km) centred on the nuclear power plant.
8. Two days after the accident Swedish air monitors detect a large amount of radiation in the atmosphere, which is traced back to the USSR. Soviet officials admit that there's been an accident, but they falsely state the situation is under control.
9. This radioactivity was spread by the wind over Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine and soon reached as far west as France and Italy
10. On the 1st May 1986 Soviet officials refuse to cancel the May Day festivities in Kiev, even as radiation continues to be released unabated.



