

Timeline



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| Friday 11/03/11 | 14:46 - a magnitude 9.0 earthquake occurred off the north east coast of Japan, triggering the start of the tsunami. |
| | The north east coast was hit by the wave first and they were still being struck by aftershocks of the earthquake. The wave was 10m high when it first hit. It reached up to 10km inland. |
| | The staff and students at Okawa Elementary School evacuated to the playground at the bottom of a hill. They didn't realise the wave would be so big. 70 of the 108 students and 9 of the 13 teachers who were there were killed by the tsunami. |
| | The wave destroyed almost everything in it's path; cars, boats, people and many buildings which had already been weakened by the earthquake. Broken gas pipes and electricity lines caused huge fires. |
| | As the water drained back into the sea, it swept people and debris with it. The number of people who died or were never found totalled 18,500. |
| | 12:42 - A dam in Fukushima broke, destroying even more homes. |
| Saturday 12/03/11 | Tsunami waves continue to hit the coast. |
| | The nuclear power station at Fukushima had been badly damaged and one of the reactor buildings exploded. Radiation leaks were also found. |
| | 21:00 - Over 200 fires were reported nationally. |
| | Over 100,000 rescue workers including military were deployed to find survivors and help to evacuate people near the nuclear reactors. |
| | Iodine tablets were distributed to treat radiation poisoning. |
| Sunday 13/03/11 | Around 230,000 people were evacuated from the area around the Fukushima power plant after the tsunami had passed. |
| | Drinking water was contaminated and pipes had burst. People were left with no power or water. |
| Monday 14/03/11 | There was a second explosion at the Fukushima nuclear power station. |
| | In 2015, 230,000 people still hadn't returned to their homes. |