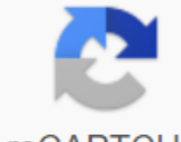


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Chernobyl, the site of the world's deadliest nuclear accident, is now a surprisingly popular tourist destination. But lethal radiation still permeates the landscape around the site, so why is it safe to visit at all? Ukrainian authorities opened the area to tourists almost a decade ago, saying that the visits are safe, although tours will be strictly regulated. Since then, thousands of people have flocked to the Chernobyl exclusion zone. 5 everyday things that are radioactive It is true that radiation in large doses can damage tissues and acute disease and increase the risk of cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. However, people around the world bathe every day in radiation that is a natural part of the environment. This includes ground radiation from The Earth itself, internal radiation generated by living organisms, and cosmic radiation from the Sun and stars, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Calculating exposure In the average, a person in the U.S. is exposed to about 3 millisieverts (mSv) of radiation per year, which is considered well within safe levels of exposure. Radiation from medical imaging technology ranges from less than 1 mV to about 20 mSV for some CT scans, the American College of Radiology said. Radiation doses of 50 to 200 mV can cause chromosomal damage, while doses of 200 to 1000 mSV can lead to a temporary drop in the number of white blood cells; Serious radiation sickness sets in about 2000 mSv, and death follows within a few days after exposure to 10,000 mSV, according to the atomic archive. Soon after the nuclear crisis in Chernobyl, dozens of cleaning workers at the plant were exposed to radiation up to 8,000 mSV, equivalent to 80,000 to 16,000 X-rays of the chest. This resulted in at least 134 workers contracting serious radiation sickness and causing 28 deaths. When the Chernobyl reactor exploded, it released deadly radiation levels, but radioactive fallout was not evenly distributed in the surrounding area, due to weather conditions and changing winds. Places that were further away from the reactor became radioactive hotspots, and there were villages, that were close enough to a plant that didn't get much pollution, said Fred Mettler, professor emeritus and clinical professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Even in villages, radiation has been unevenly distributed and can vary from street to street, as Mettler learned when he visited the region from 1989 to 1990 with the U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). Assessments of the risk of the Chernobyl reactor, which is currently contained under a metal shell, are still highly radioactive and likely for up to 20,000 years. However, the zones in Chernobyl that are now open to May have initially received lower doses of radiation despite their proximity to the damaged reactor, Mettler told Live Science. Background radiation levels around Chernobyl were generally also lower than the global average before the accident, which may have helped mitigate the increase in radiation from the accident, Mettler added. However, the current problems of radiation safety dictate that tourists are limited to certain areas and are not allowed to roam on their own, the leaders of the tour with Chernobyl Tour wrote on the website of the Ukrainian company. The average one-day visit to Chernobyl begins and ends with a passage through the official checkpoint to monitor dosimetry or radiation measurement, and in the middle of the tour there is an additional radiation checkpoint, according to the State Agency for the Management of the Exclusion Area of Ukraine. About 60,000 tourists visited Chernobyl in 2018. Anton Taranenko, head of the tourism and promotion department of the Kiev City State Administration, said recently at a briefing. Of all the most popular tourist destinations in Ukraine, the Chernobyl zone is a leader, Taranenko said, according to the National News Agency of Ukraine. Ukrainian representatives of the travel agency said that orders to Chernobyl in May rose by about 30% and are likely to be even higher in the summer months due to the popularity of the recent HBO series Chernobyl, reported earlier Live Science. Originally published on Live Science. HBO's limited series Chernobyl has been nominated for 19 Emmy Awards. Based on real events, creator Craig Mazin wanted the show to be as faithful a life as possible. This is the true story of the Chernobyl incident, the largest human disaster in world history. If you haven't seen it, or have not heard of the limited HBO series Chernobyl, you may have instead seen snippets of it on HBOGo's YOUR menu, or in the moments before or after the Game of Thrones episode. Debuted back in May and starting five episodes, Chernobyl was one of HBO's biggest successes of the year. As a result, the series was nominated for 19 Emmys this month. With outstanding writing from Craig Mazin (the nominee himself) and outstanding acting from the likes of Jared Harris, Stellan Skarsgard, and Emily Watson (all nominated for their efforts), and a tightly planned true story, the series is more than worth your time. Nominated for outstanding limited series, Chernobyl joins the category just stacked with the true story of this year's series: Escape to Danemora, Fosse/Verdon and when they see us all also based on real events (only another HBO's Sharp Objects, based on bestselling bestseller In fact, the Chernobyl disaster was a real nuclear crisis that occurred in Soviet Ukraine in April 1986 after the explosion, fire and release of large amounts of radiation. The series is said to be as close to reality as possible, but what is reality? We took a picture answering some of the biggest questions regarding the devastating disaster that reached its 33rd anniversary earlier this year. SHONET Getty Images What Happened at Chernobyl? The Chernobyl incident, as it is usually called, was the largest human disaster in world history. It happened at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the abandoned city of Pripyat, Ukraine, on April 26, 1986. How did the Chernobyl incident begin? The World Nuclear Association describes the incident as the result of an erroneous design of the reactor, which was operated with insufficiently trained personnel. On the evening of April 25, workers conducted a poorly planned test that included the shutdown of various safety systems at one of Chernobyl's four reactors, Reactor 4, with the reactor running low. According to Britannica.com, the reactor got out of control in the early hours of April 26, causing explosions and a fireball that blew the lid off immediately. This, combined with a highly carcinogenic fire that started in another part of the reactor, sent a significant amount of radiation into the atmosphere. This fire burned for nine or 10 days, with harmful updrafts of fumes flowing into the air of the surrounding area. SVF2 Getty Images How do they contain radiation from Chernobyl? Initially, the site of the explosion was covered with a sarcophagus to limit radiation for several weeks after the explosion. The new sarcophagus, called New Safe Confinement, was built by the EU and placed on site in October 2017. This part of the infrastructure was designed with the specific intention of limiting what is left of the radiation from the reactor explosion over the next 100 years. IMAGE Images Image caption Did anyone die in the Chernobyl accident? In connection with the incident at the level of the Chernobyl disaster, there are different levels of casualties. While some people died immediately, immediately victims of either fire or poisoning from extreme plant radiation levels, others have suffered health effects from various degrees of years down the line. According to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 600 workers were at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant site on the day of the incident, 134 of whom suffered acute radiation sickness. Twenty-eight of these people died within the next three months. Two workers were killed on the night of the incident. Another 14 of the 134 died of radiation-related cancer within 10 years of the incident (until 1996). Another 15 deaths from childhood thyroid disease the type most commonly associated with dangerous radiation levels occurred between 1996 and 2011. Over the next few years, a number of other health problems have emerged in the area, although, as the UNSC study points out, it may be difficult to directly correlate the results with the cause of the Chernobyl disaster. Simply put, many of those who contracted radiation in the plant but did not die found lingering health problems in the following years - some even developed radiation cataracts that affected their vision. Were there any other long-term effects? Incidents such as Chernobyl can have mental health consequences in addition to physical health problems. One part of the information that the World Health Organization notes in its findings is that open populations tend to show twice as high as those not affected. It was also found that exposed people were more likely to report a number of unexplained physical symptoms and subjective ill-health. Mental health problems, they note, can tend to increase after a natural disaster, and can occur years after an incident. This content is imported from an embedded name. You can find the same content in a different format, or you may be able to find more information on your website. Some media outlets, perceptions of Chernobyl, have managed to move away from the reality of what really happened over the years. For example, in 2012 a large studio film Chernobyl Diaries was released. While this film usually uses a real Ukrainian production (the abandoned city of Pripyat, where the Chernobyl nuclear power plant existed), this similarity ends. The film is terrified, with a group of teenagers passing through nuclear exclusion zones to clash with mutants, monsters and, yes, fish mutants. The HBO series wants to be the closest thing to a true story about what happened (no fish mutants in this). If something in the series comes even close to inaccurate, it's a simple compression of events for the sake of balancing the narrative of the series with the events portrayed. Series three stars Jared Harris, Stellan Skarsgard, and Emily Watson, all have character traces that series Creator/Showrunner Craig Mazin traced in his extensive research. HBO If you want to stay untouched for HBO's Chernobyl series, this could be a good time to stop reading. Although there is no ton of information about Valeria Legasov, Harris's character, he really was a real person - the scientist responsible for investigating the design flaws that led to the incident. Legasov hanged himself in his own house on the second Crisis. In 1996, he was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation for his courage and heroism after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. THE HBO characters Skarsgard and Watson are also based on reality - Boris Cherbina, played by Skarsgard, was a real bureaucrat, an agent of the Kremlin, who oversaw the federation's actions in the energy sector and built a working relationship and friendship with Legasov in their efforts after the incident. Although there is no man named Uliana Khomyuk, the astrophysicist character Emily Watson is based on the unearthed history of Soviet nuclear physicists who discovered flaws in the system that led to the disaster, and blew the whistle along the way. This content is created and supported by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. 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