

The background of the JRCS's preparedness for possible nuclear disasters in the future is as follows:

## 1. Experience during the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident (Fukushima Daiichi accident) and lessons learned from the experience

The JRCS relief teams from other prefectures were providing relief activities in Fukushima Prefecture when the Fukushima Daiichi accident occurred. However, the accident forced them to temporarily leave the prefecture, meaning that not enough activities were provided by the JRCS. The main reasons for that are as follows:

### **(1) Lack of knowledge about radiation**

Not all the JRCS relief team members are specialists about radiation. At that time, they did not have enough knowledge about radiation and health risks of radiation. Therefore, the fears and anxieties for radiation did not allow them to conduct enough relief activities in Fukushima.

### **(2) Lack of radiation protective equipment/materials such as devices for measuring radiation levels/doses**

The JRCS relief teams did not have any equipment to measure air dose rate in their activity areas, the body surface contamination of the survivors and the personal radiation dose of the relief team members. In addition, they did not have any radiation protective gear to prevent radioactive materials from attaching to their body surface or going into their bodies.

### **(3) Lack of standards for activities in a radiation environment**

At that time, the JRCS had no clear code of conduct to secure the safety of its relief team members while conducting relief activities in a radiation environment. The JRCS could not ensure their safety.

This regret made the JRCS to recognize the importance of preparing for possible nuclear disasters. For the JRCS's relief activities during the Fukushima Daiichi accident, please visit the special webpage: [Relief activities by the JRCS after the outset of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident](#)



The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant after the outset of the accident.

(Source: [Tokyo Electric Power Company's website](#))



Soon after the nuclear accident occurred, the JRCS relief teams discussed how they should respond to the accident.

(At the JRCS Fukushima Chapter, March 13, 2011.)

(Photo credit: JRCS)