

About the accident at the Lenin Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

On April 26, 1986, at 01:25 a.m., an explosion has occurred at the Unit 4 of the Lenin Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Kiev region, during the preparation for the scheduled maintenance work.

As a result of the explosion, the roof and walls of the upper part of the reactor building, as well as a part of the roof covering of the turbine room, collapsed. A fire broke out in the area of the explosion, it was localized at 04:50 a.m. and extinguished at 6 a.m. by the fire department personnel.

During the accident, there were approximately 200 service personnel at the station. Nine people received burns of various degrees. One person (surname not established) died at 6 a.m., three people are in serious condition. In addition, 34 people who took part in extinguishing the fire were taken to the medical unit for examination (nine of whom are fire department workers). At 8 a.m. the whereabouts of the senior operator, V.I. Khodemchuk, had not been established.

At 3 a.m. the radiation level in the city was 144-504 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{hour}$, by 7 a.m. it dropped to 72-144 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{hour}$.

In the immediate vicinity of the accident site the radiation level is up to 36,000 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{hour}$.

Power unit 3 was stopped due to the emergency situation at the power unit 4. Power units 1 and 2 are operating in a normal mode.

The cause of the accident and the degree of material damage are being established by a government commission.

The situation in the city of Pripyat and surrounding settlements is normal. Radiation levels are being controlled.

Director of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant V.P. Bryukhanov
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