WHEN THE WIND BLOWS

Countries in which radiation detected

Prevailing winds blow microscopic particles easterly from Asia to North America at about 80km/h, meaning radiation from the damaged Japanese nuclear plant took a week to cross the Pacific Ocean.

Gray smoke rises from Unit 3 of Fukushima nuclear power station.

Germany
South Korea
China
Japan
Fukushima
Alaska
Canada
USA
Nevada
Vermont
North Carolina
Massachussetts
Iceland
Hawaii
EQUATOR
Coriolis effect and atmospheric circulation
New Zealand

THE CORIOLIS EFFECT

A force generated by rotation of the earth nudges wind into rotating anti-clockwise north of the equator and clockwise south of the equator.

The **CORIOLIS EFFECT** deflects surface air to the right and the air blows across the surface forming the Easterly Trades.

There is some transfer of weather between hemispheres, but most wind is deflected. Any particles which do creep into the South Pacific are diluted and slow-moving.

Source: www.uwf.edu PICTURE: AP / HERALD GRAPHIC