| Claim / Data Point Supported | Citation | Link |
|---|---|---|
| The Chernobyl disaster occurred on April 26, 1986, at 1:23 AM, at Reactor 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Soviet Union | Britannica | https://www.britannica.com/event/Chernobyl-disaster |
| The accident was caused by a flawed RBMK reactor design and operator errors during a safety test | World Nuclear Association | https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/chernobyl-accident |
| The RBMK-1000 is a graphite-moderated, boiling water, pressure tube reactor using enriched uranium dioxide fuel | Hong Kong Observatory | https://www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/tidbit/200606/chernobyl_q2e.htm |
| During the test, most control rods were withdrawn, violating safety protocols (less than 15 rods remained) | Britannica | https://www.britannica.com/event/Chernobyl-disaster |
| The reactor experienced a sudden power surge, steam explosion, and a second explosion (hydrogen/graphite fire) | World Nuclear Association | https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/chernobyl-accident |
| The explosions blew off the 1,000-tonne reactor lid, released radioactive material, and ignited a fire in the graphite core | Britannica | https://www.britannica.com/event/Chernobyl-disaster |
| At least 5% of the radioactive reactor core (192 tonnes of fuel) was released into the environment | World Nuclear Association | https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/chernobyl-accident |
| The radioactive release was equivalent to hundreds of Hiroshima bombs in terms of environmental impact | LiquiSearch | https://www.liquisearch.com/chernobyl_compared_to_other_radioactivity_releases/chernobyl_compared_with_an_atomic_bomb |
| Radioactive fallout spread across Europe, from Ukraine to Sweden, Spain, and the UK | IAEA | https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/chernobyl/faqs |
| 2 workers died immediately, 28 more (firefighters and staff) died within weeks from acute radiation syndrome | IAEA | https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/chernobyl/faqs |
| Radioactive rain and contaminated milk led to thyroid cancer in thousands of children | IAEA | https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/chernobyl/faqs |
| 350,000+ people were evacuated; Pripyat (49,000) was evacuated 36 hours after the accident, exclusion zone established | IAEA | https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/chernobyl/faqs |
| Liquidators (about 600,000) were mobilized for cleanup, decontamination, and construction of the sarcophagus | IAEA | https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/chernobyl/faqs |
| The original concrete and steel sarcophagus was completed in November 1986; later replaced by the New Safe Confinement (2019) | World Nuclear Association | https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/chernobyl-accident |
| The cost of the disaster to the Soviet Union was estimated at $235 billion | Britannica | https://www.britannica.com/event/Chernobyl-disaster |
| The disaster contributed to the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union | Britannica | https://www.britannica.com/event/Chernobyl-disaster |
| Environmental effects: Red Forest, animal mutations, but wildlife has since returned in large numbers | IAEA | https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/chernobyl/faqs |
| The World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) was founded in 1989 as a direct result of Chernobyl | World Nuclear Association | https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/chernobyl-accident |
| Remaining Chernobyl reactors operated until 2000; full decommissioning expected by 2028 | Britannica | https://www.britannica.com/event/Chernobyl-disaster |