

Topics Fukushima introduces JAEA's activities related to Fukushima.

Demonstration testing of decontamination in a pool in Iwaki City Children First activities

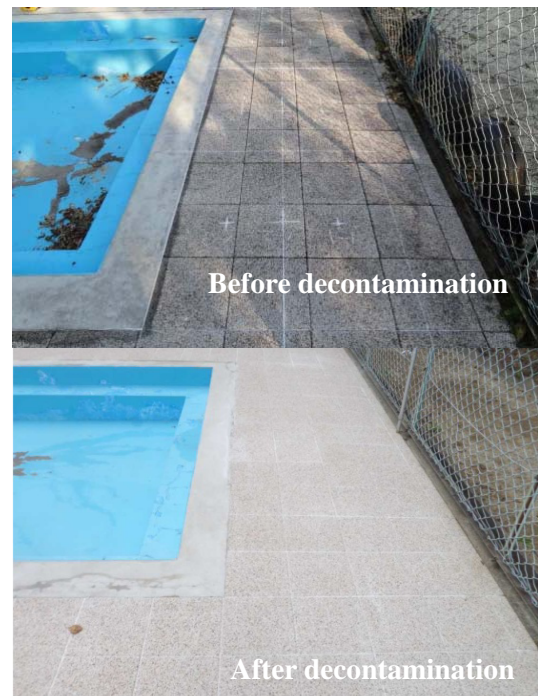
As part of the collaboration with relevant organizations in the Fukushima region, on October 25 JAEA, in response to a request from Iwaki City, conducted demonstration testing of decontamination technology using ultra high-pressure water at the pool of the Municipal Okeuri Day Care Center. On the day of the test, the surface of the pool side pavement was divided into 4 blocks of 1 m² each, and decontamination was performed by shaving off a thin layer of the surface using high pressures of 100, 150, 200 and 250 MPa. The sprayed water was simultaneously suctioned up and recovered, and then reused after conducting water treatment to remove radioactive materials.

The results showed that while surface contamination before the decontamination was 444-1049 cpm, it decreased to 45-116 cpm after the decontamination (a decrease rate of 80-94%). The current state has almost no contamination, and the pool can be used without any worries.

From July to September of last year, JAEA conducted demonstration testing of decontamination at the pools of 7 kindergartens and elementary/ junior high schools in Fukushima Prefecture. The obtained findings were compiled into a guidebook, which is being used to transfer the technology to relevant parties, and conduct decontamination activities.



**The photograph above shows decontamination work
The photographs at the upper right and lower right show the
pool side before and after decontamination**





Children First activities

In August of last year, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters of the Government decided on a Basic Policy on Urgent Implementation of Decontamination. This policy stipulates the "Children First" approach, which prioritizes the reduction of radiation dose surrounding children.

According to the Policy, JAEA has been cooperating with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology by dispatching experts on radiation and decontamination, and providing technical advice and guidance, for decontamination activities carried out by schools and other facilities. Cooperative action by schoolteachers, parents and local residents to reduce the radiation dose in the living environment of children will be a key part of reducing anxieties and restoring local communities. As an expert team of decontamination, JAEA is cooperating with these efforts.

The first of these efforts was carried out on December 3, 2011 at Ohta Elementary School in Minamisoma City, located in the former Evacuation-Prepared Area in case of Emergency. At that time, JAEA provided advice and guidance for the local people and teachers to conduct decontamination work of the school buildings and surrounding area, as well as carried out decontamination work together with them. Thanks to this work, the school was able to resume classes without worries about radiation exposure.

Until now JAEA has conducted 15 cooperative activities related to this approach, which include: providing decontamination guidance on playground equipment at elementary/junior high schools and day care centers; holding seminars on methods of decontaminating routes children use to go to and from school; providing advice on pool decontamination; and conducting surveys of contamination cross-sectionally using plastic scintillation fibers.

JAEA has also prepared a guide on decontamination of playground equipment based on findings obtained through these activities.

