Chernobyl
Past and Present

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What brought me to Ukraine

- FOCCUS- Friends of Chernobyl Centers, United States

- Community Development Centers
  - Locations
  - Mission
The History of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

- Construction of the Power Plant
  - Began in 1970
    - Nuclear reactor #1 commissioned in 1977
  - Consisted of 4 nuclear reactors
  - Two more were under construction at the time of the nuclear accident
Model of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant
April 26, 1986 1:23
- Nuclear Reactor #4
- The fire resulting from the explosion released radiation equivalent to 100 atomic bombs

Emergency Response
- Firefighters
  - Of the firefighters who responded, 28 died within four weeks of radiation poisoning
- Construction of the shelter
  - Immediate shelter constructed within 6-9 months
Shelter Protecting Reactor
Pripyat

- History of Pripyat
  - Founded in 1979, provided housing for workers of the Chernobyl NPP
  - At the time of the explosion the population of Pripyat was approximately 49,000

- Infrastructure – Types of buildings in Pripyat
  - 15 Elementary Schools, 5 secondary schools, 1 professional school
  - 1 Hospital
  - 35 Playgrounds and 1 large park
  - 4 factories
  - 3 indoor swimming pools, a movie theater, and 10 gymasiums
Evacuation of Pripyat

- Evacuation
  - Occurred at least 36 hours after the nuclear explosion
  - 1100 Buses were used to transport families to the city of Kiev
  - The residents of Pripyat were told to pack little and that they would be able to return
The Outcome of Chernobyl

- **Effects of Radiation**
  - Of the 200,000 workers that participated in cleanup, approximately 4,000 died from Radiation poisoning
  - Areas affected by the radiation
    - Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine were most severely affected

- **Evacuation**
  - Around 116,000 people were evacuated from villages near the nuclear reactor, some were never allowed to return to their home
  - It is estimated that an addition 230,000 people were also evacuated
  - Over 404,000 people were eventually resettled
Health Effects

- Although 5.5 million people live on contaminated land today, the effects of radiation on their health are unknown.
- Of survivors of the accident, the largest health risk is thyroid cancer.
The Chernobyl NPP began to shut down its remaining reactors, all were shut down by 2000.

Although the plant remains inoperational, workers remain employed by the plant today.

The Shelter built to protect the outside world from radiation, has began to erode.

- A new shelter structure will be built beginning in 2011 (hopefully).
Chernobyl NPP
Slavutych

- “New city” built for the Chernobyl plant workers after the accident
- Built in 9 months; finished in 1987
- The city was constructed in 12 different “blocs” styles of architecture, therefore one side of the street looks very different from the other
- Today has a population of 30,000 people; 1/3 of the population is under the age of 18
Apartments in Slavutych
More Apartments in Slavutych
The Exclusion Zone

- A 30 KM area which encloses the site of the nuclear accident
- The zone is considered relatively safe for visitors
The village of Pripyat remains silent and uninhabited

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VW5a457Avo
Pripyat