

Stress Factors for Disaster Victims

- Future uncertainty
- Uncertainty about residence and workplace security
- Social prejudice
- Media influences
- Differences of climates and customs

Characteristics unique to radiation disasters



- Unable to predict disasters
- Difficult to determine the extent of damage
- Possible radiation effects that might arise in the future

Source: Prepared based on the "Mental Support at the Chernobyl Accident," Material 3-2 for the 3rd meeting of the Investigative Commission for Mental Care and Measures against Health Concern, Exposure Medicine Sectional Meeting, Nuclear Regulation Authority (former Nuclear Safety Commission)
<http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/8422832/www.nsr.go.jp/archive/nsc/senmon/shidai/kokoro/kokoro003/siryoy2.htm> (in Japanese)

Generally, factors causing stress to the victims of disasters include future uncertainty, uncertainty about residence and workplace security, social prejudices, media influences, differences of climates and customs, etc. For radiation disasters, there are other stress factors as well, such as being unable to predict disasters, difficulty in determining the extent of damage, and radiation effects that might arise in the future (p.135 of Vol. 1, "Radiation Accidents and Health Concerns").

In particular, concerns over future radiation effects cause a huge stress as victims have to be worried for a long time about the possibility that they might someday develop cancer.

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