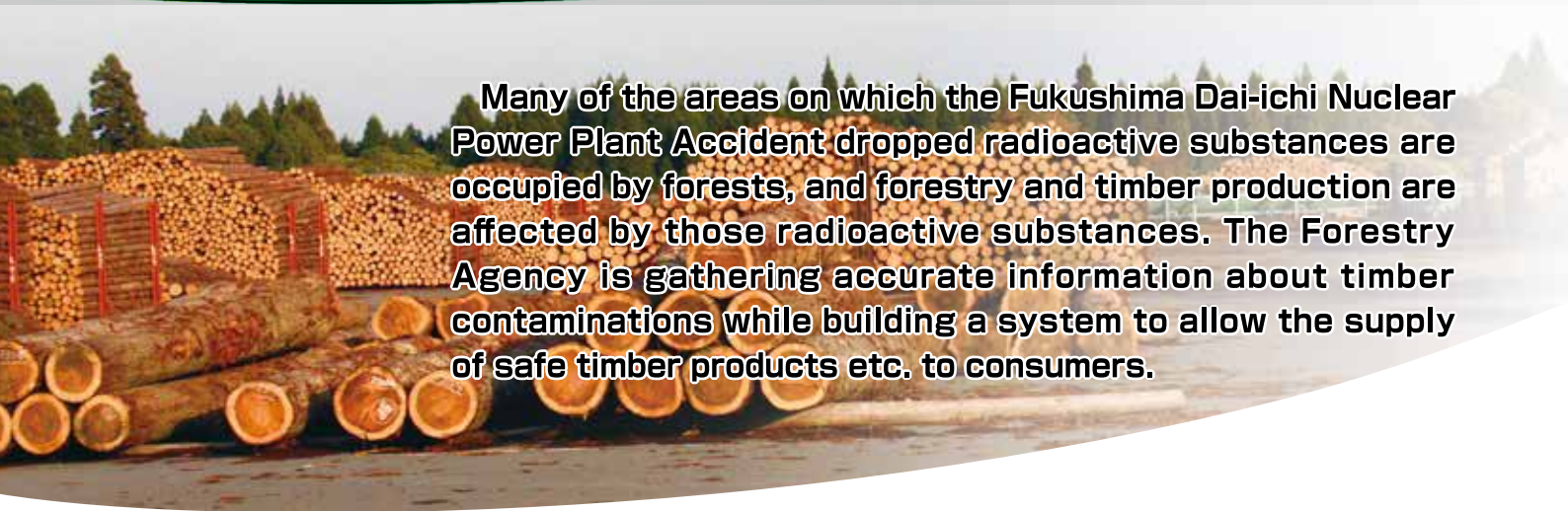


# IV Actions to Promote Timber Use



Many of the areas on which the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident dropped radioactive substances are occupied by forests, and forestry and timber production are affected by those radioactive substances. The Forestry Agency is gathering accurate information about timber contaminations while building a system to allow the supply of safe timber products etc. to consumers.

## Building Systems to Supply Safe Timber Products etc.

In efforts to ensure safety, timber produced in Fukushima Prefecture is felled and moved according to the “Guidelines for Felling and Moving Trees From Private Forests of Fukushima Prefecture (enacted on December 17, 2014)” by Fukushima Prefecture, and standards for the safe shipment of timber products are set in “Voluntary Management Standard Limit for Radiation Levels in Timber Products (enacted on July 27, 2012) by the Fukushima Prefecture Federation of Timber Cooperatives.

In addition, the Forestry Agency works to provide consumers with safe timber products etc. by performing continuous investigation and analysis (monitoring) of radioactive substances in timber products and working environments etc., for all processes from intake of raw lumber to shipment of timber products. The Agency has

installed radioactive substance measurement instruments in raw lumber markets, sawmills, and chip factories, and provides outreach and education to prevent negative reputation impact. These and other measures provide support towards the establishment of a safety certification system for timber products etc. (Figure 1).

In Fukushima Prefecture, surface dose levels on finished timber products in factories finishing and shipping materials produced in the prefecture have been investigated at regular intervals (once in three months) since 2011. A survey conducted in June 2018 found that when three or more samples were taken of each product type, such as columns, beams, and boards, from all 127 factories preparing and shipping Fukushima-grown materials, the highest value of surface radiation level (unit cpm\*1) was 44 cpm (equivalent to 0.001  $\mu$ Sv/h\*2) (Figure 2) When this measured value was checked by an expert in radiological protection, their assessment was that it would have no impact on health or the environment.

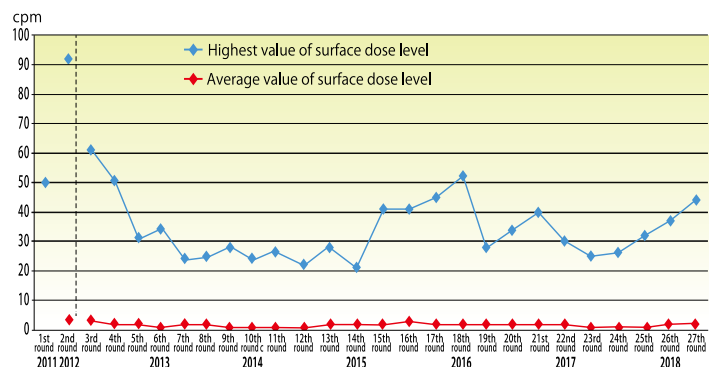
※1 cpm: Short for counts per minute, which is the value displayed on a Geiger counter or other radiation meter.

※2 For reference, the air dose in Fukushima City before the disaster (on 2010.2.16) was 0.04  $\mu$ Sv/h, while the air dose in Shinjuku ward, Tokyo (on April 2 2018) was 0.0376  $\mu$ Sv/h.



**[Figure 1] Development of an Inspection System for Raw Timber and Timber Products**

Reference : Forestry Agency “Survey and Validation Project for Impacts on Distribution of Safe Timber Products etc.” (FY2018)



**[Figure 2] Surface Dose Levels of Timber Products**

Reference : Fukushima Prefecture “Results of a Survey of Radiation Levels of Timber Lumber Products from Fukushima Prefecture”