

# The News

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## TWO FEARED DEAD AND HUNDREDS AT RISK AS DEADLY CLOUD DESCENDS



# NUKE DUST DISASTER

BY RICHARD MCFITT

NUCLEAR CARNAGE:: Casualties are rescued from wreckage of crash on M74

**A** deadly cloud of radioactive dust billowing into the air within seconds of a horror smash on the busy M74 yesterday morning was expected to put thousands more residents at risk.

Hundreds of families have already been evacuated, and parents told to abandon their children in school —but the nightmare was set to escalate today as Met Office warned the lethal cloud would spread across Glasgow. A giant plume of smoke brought traffic chaos.

As the dust cloud grew, police warned of a risk of radioactive particles being carried downwind and urged parents to leave their children in school rather than risk leaving the house to collect them.

The crash happened when a lorry careered across the northbound carriageway, plunged through the central reservation and jack-knifed — piercing a large hole in the side of an MOD vehicle carrying a Trident nuclear warhead. Two people were feared dead and many more were injured in the accident which brought traffic chaos.

Residents were also ordered to shut doors and windows and shut down air conditioning systems. Authorities were last night remaining tight-lipped about the accident as armed marines patrolled the scene to the east of the city and officers in biological protection suits set up a decontamination area.

All movement of weapons convoys has now been banned pending an investigation, said the Nuclear Accident Response Organisation. Critics last night told how warnings of such a catastrophic incident had been “ignored” and said the MOD now had “blood on their hands”.

**SPECIAL IN-DEPTH REPORT—PAGES 2, 3, 4 & 5**

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