

China starts radiation monitoring after DPRK nuclear test



China starts radiation monitoring after DPRK nuclear test on September 3, 2017. [File Photo: zhb.gov.cn]

China has started monitoring the radiation levels in its northeastern border areas in an emergency response to a nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) initiated the emergency response at 11:46 a.m. Sunday, MEP said in a statement.

"At present, the automatic radiation monitoring stations in the provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning and Shandong are functioning properly," the statement said.

By 4 p.m., monitoring data from the four provinces showed that China's environment had not been affected by the nuclear test, the ministry said in a separate statement.

All monitoring spots saw radiation at their normal levels, the ministry added.

The China Earthquake Administration reported that a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck the DPRK at 11:30 a.m. with an epicenter depth of zero km, saying that it might have been caused by explosion.

The DPRK's central television announced Sunday that the country had successfully detonated an H-bomb, a hydrogen bomb that can be carried by an intercontinental ballistic missile.

China's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement expressing firm opposition to and strong condemnation of the test.