

Federal, State and Local Governments to Host Joint Media Briefing on East Palestine Train Derailment, CDC Conducts Door-to-Door Outreach

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio – The Biden-Harris Administration today held a news conference with federal, state and local partners to provide an update and details on the federal recovery efforts to the Norfolk Southern Train Derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.



[Ohio EPA Director Anne Vogel speaks at Joint Media Briefing on East Palestine Train Derailment Recovery Efforts](#)

To watch the entire press briefing, please visit [here](#). The next press briefing is scheduled to occur at 4 p.m. ET tomorrow in East Palestine, Ohio.

Those seeking assistance can contact 866-361-0526 from 8 am to 8 pm EST.

Operational Updates:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA has instructed Norfolk Southern to temporarily pause shipping waste off-site. Until Feb. 24, Norfolk Southern had been solely responsible for the disposal of waste generated by the East Palestine train

derailment. The company supplied Ohio EPA with their list of selected and utilized disposal facilities on Feb. 23. Moving forward, waste disposal plans, including disposal location and transportation routes for contaminated waste, will be subject to Federal EPA review and approval. EPA will ensure that all waste is disposed of expeditiously in a safe and lawful manner at EPA-certified facilities to prevent further release of hazardous substances and impacts to communities. EPA will continue to work with our local, state, and federal partners to use our longstanding experience and expertise in these matters to ensure health and safety, support the East Palestine community and to hold Norfolk Southern accountable.

- Norfolk Southern has agreed to comply with EPA's order to conduct all necessary actions associated with the cleanup of the derailment. EPA's order marks the transition of the multi-agency response from its emergency phase to a longer-term remediation phase.
- EPA has conducted 574 home re-entry screenings to date and continues air monitoring at 15 stations within the community. Two more Summa air sampling canisters were deployed and two were collected from the previous day of deployment.

Health and Human Services (HHS) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

- Team from CDC/ATSDR participated in door-to-door outreach on Feb. 25 to provide information on the Assessment of Chemical Exposure survey and provide health information.
- Upcoming actions include providing health communication materials for clinical providers and residents in collaboration with the state and local departments of health. Outreach materials and health communications materials will be shared at the EPA community welcome center opening this week.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- FEMA will continue to ramp up outreach across the affected communities to ensure that we are meeting people where they are and connecting them to critical federal, state and local resources.
- Additionally, the agency continues to provide technical assistance to our partners at the EPA for a call center assisting East Palestine residents and businesses.
- As we help our interagency partners with this outreach, FEMA will continue to support operational coordination, logistical planning and unity of effort.
- FEMA will continue to do everything the agency can working within the scope of its authorities to assist this multiagency effort and will remain closely coordinated with partners at every level of government.