

# Officials Continue Door-to-Door Outreach, More Than 350 Residents Reached

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio – The Biden-Harris Administration today held a second 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. To date, the federal interagency teams have been to four fixed locations and provided information from the joint interagency response alongside the community emergency teams. Over the coming days, they will continue to ramp up outreach across the affected communities, to include Beaver County, PA, ensuring that we are meeting people where they are and connecting them to critical local, state, and federal resources.

To watch the entire media briefing, please visit [here](#). Briefings are scheduled daily at 4 p.m. ET in East Palestine until further notice.

## Operational Updates:

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA issued a directive to Norfolk Southern on Friday, February 24th, to accelerate cleanup of the train derailment site. Under this February 24th directive, waste disposal plans, including disposal location and transportation routes for contaminated waste, are subject to EPA review and approval moving forward. This directive is an important step in the transition from a state-led emergency response phase of the response to an EPA-led clean up phase. EPA has decades of experience dealing with hazardous waste – both from cleaning up contaminated sites to regulating the landfills where it's disposed of.
- As the agency continues to identify EPA-certified facilities that can accept this waste, some of the liquid waste will be sent to a facility in Vickery, Ohio, tomorrow, February 27, where it will be disposed of in an underground injection well.
- Tomorrow morning, Norfolk Southern will also begin shipping solid waste to the Heritage incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio. This means the cleanup can continue at a rapid pace.
- EPA will continue working with the railroad and our state and local partners to identify other solid-waste disposal locations.

- A new hotline number, **866-361-0526**, is now open for residents to contact EPA for additional questions and concerns they may have, and residents can also use the number to begin the intake process to schedule cleaning services. The hotline is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET daily.
- EPA has conducted nearly 580 home re-entry screenings as they continue active air monitoring in 15 different locations throughout East Palestine. EPA will continue offering air screening to any resident who was within the evacuation zone.
- 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.

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

- Teams from CDC/ATSDR continue participating in door-to-door outreach to provide information on the assessment of chemical exposure survey and provide health information.
- Staff conducted chemical exposure investigations in 22 homes today in nearby Pennsylvania communities.
- Upcoming actions include providing health communication materials for clinical providers and residents along 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)**

- Nearly 50 FEMA staff will continue to assist with 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.
- More than 350 residents have been reached through community outreach groups this weekend, and visits will continue for the next several days.
- As FEMA staff help interagency partners with this outreach, they will continue to support operational coordination, logistical planning and unity of effort.