

Federal Interagency Teams to Canvass East Palestine Homes Impacted by Derailment; EPA Launches Hotline to Support Residents

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio – The Biden-Harris Administration today announced that federal interagency teams including FEMA, HHS, EPA, and CDC will conduct door-to-door outreach to help provide support for residents of East Palestine, Ohio, beginning Saturday, February 25.

Teams will be equipped with the most up-to-date and accurate information, meeting impacted residents where they are in order to better connect them with resources from government and non-profit organizations, gather situational awareness about ongoing concerns and identify any unmet needs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also announced that a new hotline has been set-up to help support residents and businesses. The hotline will help provide various services, including guidance for accessing ongoing air-monitoring, water sampling, as well as information about scheduling cleaning services.

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

Operational Updates

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- 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.

Ohio State Government

- Under the Ohio EPA's direction, Norfolk Southern brought in large dump trucks to move contaminated soil to U.S. Ecology Wayne Disposal. This will be a continuous effort to properly manage and safely dispose of the waste. So far, **4,832 cubic yards of soil have been excavated** from the ground and more may be removed as cleanup proceeds.
- A total of **1,715,433 gallons of contaminated liquid has also been removed** from the immediate site of the derailment.

- Out of an abundance of caution, the Ohio EPA will independently test the municipal water once a week to ensure that this water source remains clean.
- A **new poison-control hotline** has been established for questions related to East Palestine. **Call 877-603-0170.**

Pennsylvania State Government

- A Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro shared [an online dashboard](#) with a timeline of details and listed resources for Pennsylvania residents to find on the PEMA website.

Columbiana County, Ohio

- The Columbiana County Health Department reports that it has **sampled 88 private wells in the East Palestine area**. Final testing results are pending.
- **To schedule testing for a private well, call 330-849-3919.**
- Appointments are still available this week for the Health Assessment Clinic located at the First Church of Christ in East Palestine, Ohio, which has been expanded to all residents of Unity Township, Columbiana County, Ohio. **The free clinic is now taking vital signs and residents can be seen by a physician who will conduct a medical examination. Residents can call 234-564-7755 or 234-564-7888 to schedule their appointment.**
- **The county is asking all residents in East Palestine that are interested in having their private drinking water sampled to call 330-849-3919** a set up an appointment. Residents will be provided their final lab results and the Columbiana County Health District will offer consultations for any resident with questions. These final results will also be posted at: www.columbiana-health.org/resources.

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)

- Extremely low levels of butyl acrylate did reach the Ohio River through Little Beaver Creek, a small tributary located near the Ohio and Pennsylvania border.
- In response to this event and Ohio River detections, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) developed Provision Health Guidance Values for drinking water. All detections measured since monitoring began on the Ohio River on February 8, 2023 were well below the ATSDR health values.
- Water treatment used by public water systems along the Ohio River has proven effective at removing these extremely low levels of butyl acrylate with no finished water detections reported.
- ORSANCO and its partners will continue to monitor the Ohio River as needed.

FEMA

- FEMA deployed a Regional Administrator, a senior FEMA response official, personnel from an Incident Management Assistance Team, and other full-time staff from the region and headquarters. Our areas of focus have been on operational coordination, logistical planning, and unity of effort.

- At the state’s request, FEMA arrived to support a coordinated multi-agency clean-up effort—led by the EPA—to address ongoing needs. The state of Ohio has made no other requests of FEMA at this time.
- FEMA deployed two mobile emergency response vehicles to provide office space capacity and IT support to partners, including space being used as the Joint Information Center.
- FEMA provided technical assistance to the EPA for a call center assisting East Palestine residents. This will include staffing, information tracking, resource referral and other duties.
- FEMA helped build the Command and General Staff organization that now serves local, state and federal partners in EPA’s recovery phase.
- FEMA staff further assisted by leveraging our contacts to identify and secure space for future EPA use.

Department of Transportation (DOT) & National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

- NTSB, an independent federal agency, is leading the investigation into the cause of the derailment. On Thursday NTSB [issued an Investigative Update](#) with factual findings on their investigation on the ground.
- Within hours of the derailment, staff from the Federal Railroad Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration staff were on the scene to support the NTSB investigation.
- Upon completion of the investigation, DOT will use all relevant authorities to ensure accountability and improve safety.
- DOT is demanding immediate actions from the Class I railroads, announcing continued and expanded action from DOT, and calling on Congress to take actions that will hold the industry accountable.
- More information here: <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-fact-sheet-steps-forward-freight-rail-industry-safety>

Norfolk Southern Corp.

- Norfolk Southern today began transporting previously excavated soil off-site.
- Norfolk Southern provided comments following the NTSB’s preliminary investigation results and [announced a plan](#) in response to the community for track excavation and remediation.