

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

EAST PALESTINE, OH (June 12, 2023) – Excavation at the Pleasant Drive northern track crossing should be completed this week. EPA and Norfolk Southern continue to conduct air monitoring in the work zone and in the surrounding community. Vapor suppressants are being used to control odors around the work area. Perimeter air monitoring stations are located around the rail work zone.

The latest edition of the newsletter will be published on June 13. Sheet piling is installed to excavate the track safely without affecting the integrity of the railway.

While the cleanup is ongoing, EPA is reviewing work plans for further assessment and cleanup that will ensure community safety in the years that come.

EPA published the plume map for the soot created during the controlled vent and burn that occurred on February 6 to our [website](#) on June 12.

Response By the Numbers *(as of June 9, 2023)*

- 65,328 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped
- 20,256,139 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped
- 663 private well samples collected
- 1,086 EPA assistance line calls received
- 853 visits to the Welcome Center

Past Week

On June 6, EPA facilitated an information session on public health with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at the First United Presbyterian Church in East Palestine. About 35 community members attended the event. A video of the meeting will be available on our [website](#) this week.

Public health and other assisting and cooperating agencies supporting Unified Command involved in the response to the East Palestine train derailment have provided a fact sheet as an additional source of information regarding vinyl chloride exposure and detection using medical testing: [Vinyl Chloride FAQ from the Public Health Advisory Unit \(pdf\)](#)

On Thursday, June 8, the EPA Regional Administrator and the Ohio EPA Director met with farmers and other representatives of agricultural interests to hear their concerns regarding the train derailment cleanup, soil sampling results, and what will continue as the cleanup is completed. Attendees also toured two of the farms, a beef cattle and sheep farm, and a dairy.

What to Expect This Week

Events:

- On June 14, EPA will be at the East Palestine Memorial Library from 6-7 p.m. for the “Meet the Helpers” event with the TAGA mobile monitoring unit.

At the derailment site:

- Contaminated soil and waste are being removed for off-site treatment and disposal.
- Vapor suppressants are used to address odor and vapor issues associated with excavation activities.
- EPA continues to document all excavation activities, including soil confirmation sampling prior to restoration.

In the greater community:

- Air monitoring continues at 23 locations around the community. Review of data supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels.

Air Quality

EPA continues to review preliminary and final air sampling data, which supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels.

Soil Removal at the Derailment Site

Excavation of contaminated soil around the northern track began in late April and should be completed this week. Excavated soils are shipped off-site for proper disposal, and clean dirt is brought in to fill the excavated areas. When soil waste is loaded or staged there may be increased vapors. Continuous air monitoring is done to ensure the air remains safe. Also, a vapor suppressant foam is used on active piles to reduce odors. Some chemicals of concern, such as butyl acrylate, have a low odor threshold and can be smelled below levels of concern.

Liquid Waste Removal

Wastewater is collected to ensure water does not leave the derailment site or staging piles of contaminated soil. Wastewater is generated after rain falls on contaminated soil and is collected from cleaning and washing trucks before they leave the site.

Full-Site Characterization

EPA is reviewing Norfolk Southern plans to conduct extensive assessment work in areas surrounding the impacted tracks, including potentially impacted waterways.

Soil Sampling

Sampling associated with Phase I of the Preliminary Residential/Commercial/Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan is complete. Sample results have been provided to property owners over the phone and in writing. Preliminary EPA results and validated Norfolk Southern results are posted on EPA's website: [EPA and Norfolk Southern Residential, Commercial and Agricultural Soil Sampling Results](#). Validated EPA results are expected within the next two weeks.

Drinking and Groundwater Sampling

Ohio EPA continues to conduct drinking water testing of East Palestine municipal water wells on a weekly basis, as well as weekly sampling of wells located between the municipal wells and the

derailment site. These wells were installed to monitor for potential groundwater contamination that could be moving toward the municipal wells.

Water Quality Monitoring

Norfolk Southern continues daily surface water sampling of affected waterways under Ohio EPA oversight. Sediment samples were collected and are anticipated to be received during the next operational period.