

# East Palestine

## TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

# NEWSLETTER

June 20, 2023



Train running on south track

## PROGRESS MADE

### Car Scrapping Area Sheet Pile Installation and Soil Excavations

Crews have begun work in the car scrapping areas north and south of the tracks. The north area (see Car Scrapping Area 3 in orange on the map on page 3 and 4), will have piles of debris removed and then 1 foot of soil will be excavated. The soil will be sampled and characterized before being properly disposed of off-site. Sheet piling installation has begun in the south area (see Car Scrapping Area 4 on page 3 and 4) and crews will operate extended hours, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., until work is complete. If you notice any odors or have noise concerns during this operation, please call 330-849-3919.

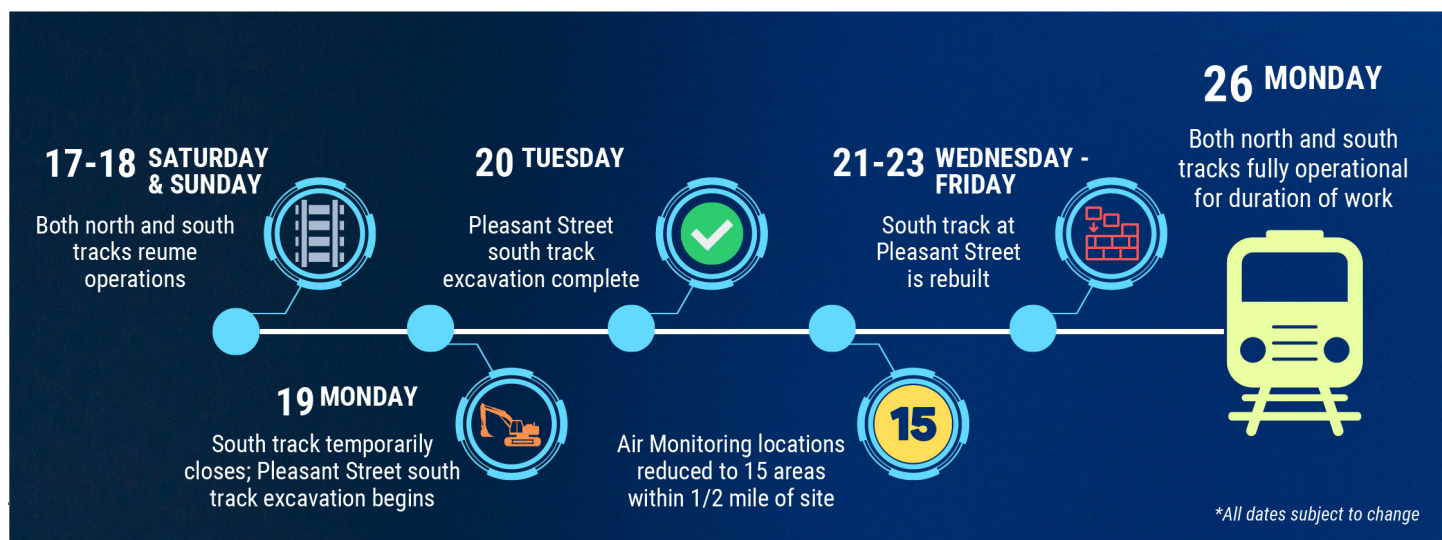
### Train Traffic

**North Track** - Excavation underneath the north track is complete and the north rail line has been rebuilt. Train traffic resumed on the north line Friday June 16.

**South Track** - The south track closed on Monday, June 19 to complete excavation under Pleasant Drive. Pleasant Drive is temporarily closed, and residents are encouraged to use James Street as an alternative route. The south track excavation and rebuild is expected to be complete by Monday, June 26 and train traffic will resume normal operation.

### Air Monitoring

With the completion of track excavation, EPA removed 8 of 23 stationary air monitoring locations. These 8 locations were located furthest away from the work area and have had no work-related detections throughout excavation activities. The 15 remaining EPA air monitoring locations that remain still surround the entire work zone up to 1/2 mile away. The graphic below shows key actions in the coming week.







## THE WEEK AHEAD

### AT THE SITE

- Both the north and south track will resume full operations for the duration of the cleanup work.
- North Ditch sidewall excavation is complete and sheet pile is being installed in the South Ditch with an access road being built to allow access to the area (see North and South Ditch in light blue in above map).
- Work is complete at Mainline 1 and 2 (Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 on map above), Burn pit areas (red-lined boxes) and Center Line (areas marked in black).
- Car Scrapping area work will continue (see orange areas on above map).
- Truck traffic continues near the derailment site. Waste shipments will continue through the summer

(see waste pile areas in yellow) and roll-off boxes will continue to be transported off site. Collection and disposal of contaminated runoff water will continue.

- Taggart Street remains closed to the public.

### IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- EPA air monitoring continues at 15 locations around town.
- Stream assessments of Sulphur Run and Leslie Run are continuing, with stream washing occurring when there is enough water in the runs to conduct activities.
- The EPA Community Welcome Center at 25 North Market Street in East Palestine, remains open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania are home to many farmers and ranchers. Recently, EPA and other agencies supporting the response visited two area farms to learn more about their operations. Baker's Golden Dairy in New Waterford uses two robots to milk their Holstein cows. The process is very efficient as cows walk up to the machines on their own when they are ready for milking. In Darlington, Tall Pines Farm raises grassfed hair sheep and has over 40 head of cattle. The animals rotationally graze, first the cattle and then the sheep.



The robotic milking machines at Baker's Golden Dairy



A newborn baby sheep and her mother at Tall Pines Farm



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epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment





## SITE STATUS CHECK

As of June 16



**NORTH TRACK:**  
Tracks operational

**SOUTH TRACK:**  
Temporarily closed during the Pleasant Street excavation work



**LESLIE RUN:**  
Stream washing occurring when there is enough water in run

**SULPHUR RUN:**  
Stream washing when enough water and bypass carries upstream water past derailment site

## TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

### 01 Now that the track is rebuilt, what else needs to be done and how long will it take?

There is still a lot of work to do. Contaminated soil to the north and south of the tracks need to be removed. A full site assessment, including extensive sampling, of areas and properties near the derailment site needs to be conducted. A full assessment of impacted creeks will be done. More cleanup work may be conducted based on those assessments. Work on these activities will be done throughout the summer and possibly into the fall.

### 02 What is the plume map and what does it tell us?

The plume map is an “event reconstruction” based on known weather and on-site observations that looked at a 10-hour time period after the vent-and-burn operation that occurred on Monday, February 6. It tells us where soot likely fell to the ground and where the highest concentrations of particles may be. This information helped EPA determine priority areas for soil sampling efforts. Learn more by scanning the QR code to the right.



### 03 If I have concerns about wildlife, who do I contact?

Contact the following agencies if you have concerns or questions about wildlife:

**OHIO RESIDENTS:**

Ohio Division of Natural Resources, 1-800-WILDLIFE or (800) 945-3543

**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS:**

The Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Centralized Dispatch Center at 1-833-PGC-WILD or 1-833-742-9453

**20.7 million**  
est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite



**71,595**  
est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite



City Lake building team and picnic table paint crew



(330) 775-6517



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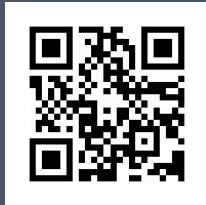


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# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

On June 20, The Way Station and First United Presbyterian Church will host a Public Health Resource Information Session from 6 to 7 p.m. at 109 Rebecca Street in East Palestine. East Liverpool Hospital, the Community Action Agency of Columbiana County, and Columbiana County Mental Health will present on health resources and services available for residents.

To watch recordings of earlier informational sessions, check out the “Videos and Photos” section of EPA’s website: [epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment/videos-and-photos](https://epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment/videos-and-photos)



## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This weekly newsletter is being developed through a joint effort of local, state, federal agencies, and community organizations. If you would like more information about topics discussed, please visit [www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment](https://www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment) or call EPA’s Information Line at **330-775-6517**



**SCAN ME** for a list of additional resources

EPA Welcome Center - EPTD  
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