

East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER

September 6, 2023



Excavated pit in Car Scrapping Area 3 awaiting sampling results

PROGRESS MADE

Structure Cleaning Program Continues

The structure cleaning program started in August to address concerns about dust generated by the cleanup work within the 1-by-2 mile initial evacuation zone. Residents in the Village of East Palestine and the 1-by-2 mile evacuation zone are eligible. The free program starts with a pre-cleaning interview, after which a cleaning date can be scheduled at your convenience. Many residents have taken advantage of the program and have been impressed with the level of care and thoroughness provided by the team. The deadline to sign-up has been **extended to September 14**. If you are interested please call the EPA Welcome Center line at 330-775-6517.

Wastewater is Treated On-site

The on-site wastewater treatment system removes vinyl chloride and other derailment contaminants from rainwater that has contacted contaminated soils. The system uses several steps – including sedimentation, filtration, oil-water separation, air stripping, and activated carbon – that remove suspended solids and particles, oils, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other remaining site contaminants. Treated wastewater samples are collected to verify the system is working as planned. The treated wastewater is then stored in large tanks and tested to verify the vinyl chloride is below the drinking water standard. Norfolk Southern will identify off-site

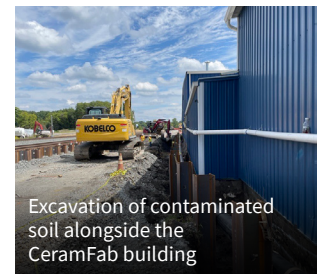
non-hazardous disposal facilities to accept the treated wastewater.

Additional Monitoring Wells Are Installed

Monitoring wells are located at the derailment site and around the community near surface waters. Additional wells will be installed in the coming weeks. The wells are capable of sampling groundwater at different depths to look for contaminants that could have migrated to groundwater.



Tanks containing activated carbon are one part of the on-site water treatment system



Excavation of contaminated soil alongside the CeramFab building



The South Ditch is de-watered before excavation continues

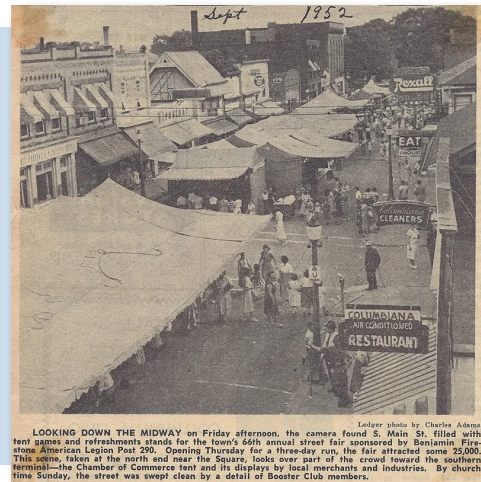
A LOOK AHEAD

AT THE DERAILMENT SITE

- Excavations in the South Ditch and Car Scrapping Area 4 will continue.
- Car Scrapping Area 3 excavation and backfilling are nearing completion.
- Review of sampling results from the on-site wastewater treatment system continues, to determine that treated wastewater can be moved offsite as non-hazardous.
- Shipments of excavated soil and untreated hazardous wastewater for off-site disposal will continue.
- Drone operations for mapping the incident and surrounding areas will continue to aid in monitoring and oversight.
- Taggart Street remains closed to the public.

IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- Pre-cleaning interviews for indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses will continue.
- September 14 is the deadline to submit the request for indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses. A cleaning date can be scheduled at your convenience and interested residents who sign up for cleaning during the eligibility period can wait to choose a cleaning date until construction activities are closer to completion. For more information call the EPA Welcome Center at 330-775-6517.
- Stationary air monitoring continues at 9 locations within the community. Roving air monitoring continues with the PTR-MS (proton-transfer-reaction mass spectrometry) vehicles. Also, in coordination with other agencies, EPA has deployed a MINICAM (miniature chemical agent monitoring system) vehicle for additional butyl acrylate monitoring.



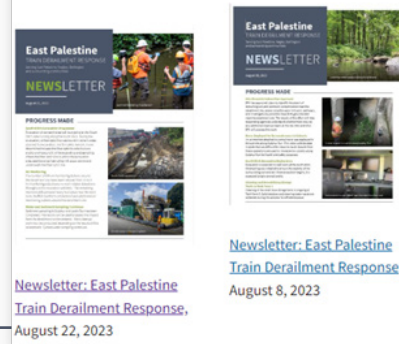
COMMUNITY CORNER

The 136th Columbiana Street Fair

From September 7 to 9, Columbiana will host its 136th Annual Street Fair. The street fair in Columbiana was first held in 1885, with judging of produce, livestock, and hand-made items. In the early 1900's, the name briefly changed to the H.H. Smith Pumpkin show. In 1920, the Benjamin Firestone Post #290 of the American Legion took over the street fair and expanded the event to three days. The fair has continued every year, except for 1943 when the American Legion supported the war effort. Today, the street fair is considered the second largest in Ohio and draws over 40,000 people.

Newsletters

Latest Newsletter



DID YOU KNOW?

You can read this newsletter in larger font! Using your computer, mobile device or tablet set to your preferred font size, you can find any issue of this newsletter on EPA's website:

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

All content will be displayed using your preferred setting.

TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

01 What is being tested for in EPA's air testing program?

Seventy-five different chemicals are tested for on the derailment site and around East Palestine. The air monitoring and sampling network includes 9 monitoring stations, 8 sampling stations, a MINICAM van, and the PTR-MS laboratory vans.

02 Are my derailment-related payments tax-exempt?

The Village of East Palestine is enacting an ordinance to provide a special, new local tax exemption for derailment-related payments that the Village's taxpayers receive, such as payments from Norfolk Southern for housing or other needs. The first of the tax exemption's three required readings before the Village Council was on August 28, 2023, which means it should go into effect 30 days after the last reading on September 25. It will apply to all 2023 and future income related to the derailment.

03 Is formaldehyde a contaminant of concern from the derailment?

Last week, an East Palestine resident reported to EPA that they had a skin reaction from handling soil in their backyard after digging a swimming pool. EPA tested the soil and did not detect high hazard chemicals. The device used for testing did indicate that low levels of formaldehyde might have been present, but the results were inconclusive. Formaldehyde was not released during the train derailment. Formaldehyde breaks down quickly in the atmosphere and environment, usually within hours, and evaporates from shallow soils. Among its many uses, formaldehyde is often used as a preservative, and to make some products – including fertilizer, paper, and plywood. For more information, please refer to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry:

wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=219&toxid=39

SITE STATUS CHECK

As of September 1

EPA COMMUNITY WELCOME CENTER:

1023
visitors



NORTH TRACK:

In operation

SOUTH TRACK:

In operation



LESLIE RUN:

Stream monitoring and sampling is ongoing

SULPHUR RUN:

Stream monitoring and sampling is ongoing

32.3 million

est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite



100,401

est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite



SAFETY MINUTE

Traffic Lights

Traffic lights are not functioning at the intersection of Taggart Road and James Street. New lights have been ordered but are awaiting delivery and installation. For now, the intersection is currently a four-way stop until the lights are replaced. Please proceed with extra caution in this area.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- The East Palestine Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at the First Church of Christ from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- September 7 to 9 – Columbiana Street Fair
- September 8 - EP First Responders Night Football Pregame at Reid Memorial Stadium at 6:45 p.m.
- September 9 - Bike Rally at the New Galilee Walking Trail from 12 to 3 p.m.
- September 30 – Big Beaver Volunteer Fire Company in Darlington is hosting a Fall Festival with vendors and a flea market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- October 1 – Community Day for Big Beaver Borough and New Galilee Borough from 1 to 4 p.m.
- October 14 – East Palestine Falliday in the Park Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

STAY INFORMED

EPA continues to release short videos called “This Week at E.P.” to share upcoming work at the site. You can find them on our website under “Photos & Videos” or by scanning the QR code.



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This newsletter is developed through a joint effort of state and federal agencies and community organizations. If you would like more information about topics discussed, please visit 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