

East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER

October 3, 2023



Tanks storing non-hazardous treated wastewater before shipping off-site for disposal.

PROGRESS MADE

East Taggart Street Phased Reopening

As of September 25, East Taggart Street between North Pleasant Drive and the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, began reopening in three phases. For the safety of workers and motorists, please observe all speed restrictions and be aware of work zones. See the graphic for more details.

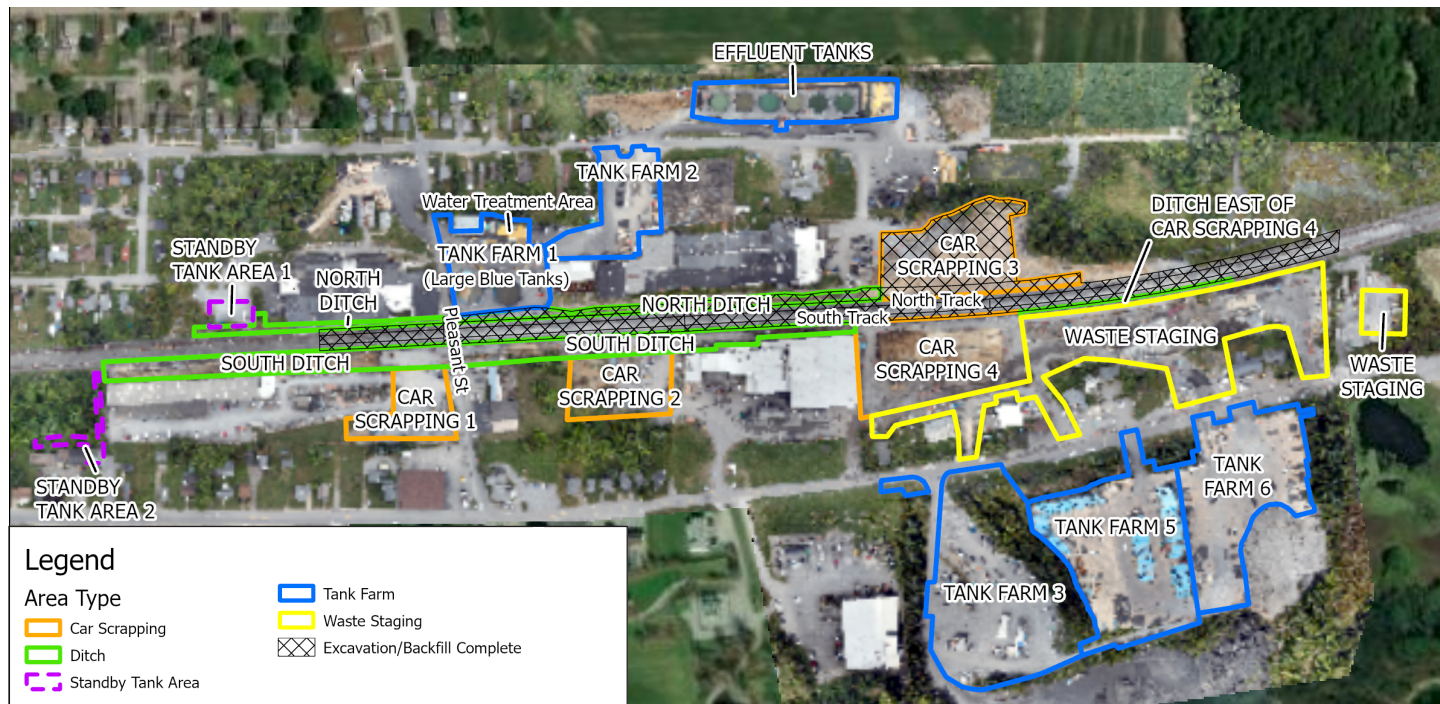
Executive Order Protects People in East Palestine and Nearby Communities, and Continues to Hold Norfolk Southern Accountable

President Biden's September 20 executive order directs FEMA to appoint a Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator to oversee long-term recovery efforts in the community. The order also announces new steps to ensure Norfolk Southern continues meeting its obligations to the community by issuing direction and policy on the federal response to the incident, to hold Norfolk Southern fully accountable under the law and to provide additional federal assistance as needed.

Read full announcement at:

whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/09/20/executive-order-on-ensuring-the-people-of-east-palestine-are-protected-now-and-in-the-future/





A LOOK AHEAD

AT THE DERAILMENT SITE

- Excavations in the South Ditch (green area south of track on map above) and Car Scrapping Area 4 (orange area south of track on map above) will continue.
- Shipments of excavated soil for off-site disposal will continue.
- Shipments of treated non-hazardous wastewater will continue.

IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

Creek Clean-Up

Some cleanup work has been performed in the creeks but residents should avoid the creeks and “keep out” signs will remain to deter use.

Surface water sampling continues to confirm that levels of chemicals from the derailment are below action levels, or levels considered hazardous to human health and the environment needing immediate action. If ongoing or future testing shows results above action levels, immediate action would be taken to notify community and steps would be taken to reduce risks. U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA are overseeing the water quality monitoring and results are posted daily on the Ohio EPA webpage. Visit: epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/reports-data/ep-surface-water-results to see those results. Look for more information and results in the coming weeks.

As many in the community have observed, some of the sediments in Sulphur and Leslie Runs can produce a hydrocarbon sheen when agitated.

The extent of sediment contamination from the derailment is being evaluated and is expected to lead to additional investigation and cleanup. Details of sediment investigations are described in workplans found here: epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment/legal-and-other-documents#wp



Excavation behind the Cerambfab building



Portion of Car Scrapping Area 4 is excavated, cleared, and ready for backfilling

TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

- 01 If there is a government shutdown, will work continue on the cleanup?**
 A 45-day continuing resolution was recently passed to avoid a shutdown. EPA’s emergency response efforts, such as in East Palestine, would move forward under a lapse in appropriation. As a result, EPA personnel would continue to fully support those efforts during a lapse.
- 02 As North Pleasant Drive is closed, what are the trucks that are using Martin Street hauling?**
 As the road closure continues, trucks that contain treated, non-hazardous wastewater from the cleanup effort will need to travel along East Martin Street since the treatment plant is located north of the site. Please note that all soil trucks will remain south of the site and will not use East Martin Street. Depending on the day and transport approvals, the number of trucks using East Martin Street will vary anywhere from none to 20 or more during a day. While this route is being used, extra flagging crews and signage will be out. Residents are encouraged to seek alternate parking, if possible, to keep the roadway clear.
- 03 Hunting season is underway, is it ok to eat wild game meat harvested from the local area?**
 There is no evidence to indicate there are any human health risks resulting from the train derailment that would limit eating wild game. To learn about other advisories or notices unrelated to the incident, contact the agency listed on your hunting license.

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CORRECTION

The Way Station will canvass in East Palestine on **Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14**. Please reach out to The Way Station for more information, 330-888-9814.

COMMUNITY CORNER

A new East Palestine Resiliency Center, a wellness program funded through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA, to provide mental health and recovery services to those effected by the train derailment. The center, which will be located at 50410 S.R. 14 in Unity Township, is in the process of hiring staff to provide services and programs and when more information becomes available, it will be shared with the community. If you would like more information, please call 330-718-8260.



SITE STATUS CHECK

As of September 29



NORTH TRACK:
In operation
SOUTH TRACK:
In operation



LESLIE RUN:
Stream sampling and monitoring is ongoing
SULPHUR RUN:
Stream monitoring and sampling is ongoing

34 million
est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite



136,220
est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite



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



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UPCOMING HEALTH WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine is organizing a virtual public workshop on November 6-7 to explore potential health research and surveillance priorities arising from the train derailment.

To register for the event and find out more information, please go to: nationalacademies.org/our-work/public-health-research-and-surveillance-priorities-from-the-east-palestine-ohio-train-derailment-a-workshop or scan the QR code.



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.



EPA WELCOME CENTER UPDATE

EPA Welcome Center will be Closed Monday, October 9, in observance of the federal holiday. The Center will resume regular hours on Tuesday.

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

EPA Welcome Center - EPTD
25 N. Market St
East Palestine, OH 44413