

# East Palestine

## TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington  
and surrounding communities

# NEWSLETTER

October 17, 2023



Confirmatory soil sampling in the East Palestine Village Park

## PROGRESS MADE

### Car Scrapping Area 4 and South Ditch Excavation Nears Completion

Contaminated soil excavation continues in a few remaining areas to the south of the railroad tracks. Soil is removed in grid-like areas, and soil from each grid is extensively tested. Once sample results show contamination is removed, then the grids can be backfilled with clean fill material.

### Additional Soil Sampling is Underway

Soil samples are currently being collected to make sure areas where equipment, materials and debris were handled did not leave any contamination behind. Soil samples will also be collected again from other locations adjacent to the excavated areas, to make sure no contamination has been overlooked. Results will be posted to EPA's website once they become available.

### Soil Sampling Results

The Phase 1 soil sampling validated results and summary can be found on EPA's East Palestine webpage. Based on analysis of soil samples from 146 locations gathered earlier this year, residents can continue to use their properties normally. Review of the results is detailed in EPA's technical memorandum of the Phase 1 Residential, Commercial, Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan, which is posted online.

### Air Monitoring Update

As excavation work is completed over the next few weeks, the air monitoring and sampling program will be evaluated, and changes will be made as needed. EPA will keep the community informed of any changes.

### Taggart Street Phase 2 Reopening

As major construction activities wind down, Taggart Street will enter the Phase 2 reopening process. The road will be open all day in both directions, but with reduced speed and periodic traffic interruptions of up to 15 minutes each. It is anticipated this will start on October 23.



# A LOOK AHEAD

## AT THE DERAILMENT SITE

- On-site excavation will continue.
- Additional soil sampling will continue in areas near the derailment site where equipment, materials, and debris were handled as part of the overall emergency response and in other areas adjacent to excavation zones.
- Sampling results from the on-site wastewater treatment system show treated wastewater can be disposed of off-site as non-hazardous. Each tank of treated wastewater is sampled before being shipped off-site.
- Excavated hazardous soil waste will continue to be shipped off-site.

## IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- Taggart Street will continue to be open at night from 7:30 pm to 5:30 am. Starting on October 23, the street will be open all day with periodic traffic interruptions of up to 15 minutes. Due to likely traffic delays on Taggart Street, alternate routes are recommended.
- Stationary and mobile air monitoring continues around the community and within the derailment site.
- Surface water sampling and visual inspections continue in Sulphur and Leslie Runs.



Hazardous soil is loaded for off-site disposal



Car Scrapping Area 4 where major excavation is nearing completion



A trench box is used to prevent collapse of trench during excavation

## COMMUNITY CORNER



Household hazardous waste collection day for Columbiana, Carroll and Harrison County residents is Thursday, October 26, from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Columbiana County Fairground, 225 Lee Ave. Lisbon. Accepted include adhesives, aerosols, antifreeze, batteries (not auto batteries), fertilizers/pesticides, fluorescent bulbs, gasoline/kerosene, household cleaners, mercury, oil-based paint, pool chemicals, propane cylinders, roof and driveway sealers, turpentine, and varnishes/stains/thinners/primers. Leave wastes in original containers and no containers larger than five gallons will be accepted. The collection is hosted by Carroll, Columbiana and Harrison Solid Waste District.

## DID YOU KNOW?

As days get cooler and shorter, you might notice the colors of fall becoming more vibrant. What causes these normally forest green leaves to take on hues of orange, gold, red, purple, and brown? Interestingly, the autumn colors are dormant in the spring and summer, hidden by the dominant and familiar shade of green. In these warmer seasons, when sunlight is strongest, chlorophyll, which reflects the characteristic green color, is responsible for turning the rays of light into food for the tree, bush, or plant. As days shorten, so does the plant's exposure to sunlight. Because of this, the chlorophyll no longer can produce as much food and begins to breakdown, leaving sugars behind that allow bright fall pigments to shine through.



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[epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment](https://epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment)

# TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

## 01 Why are there new water pipes being installed and hydrants open in town?

The East Palestine Water Department recently started a water main and lead service line replacement program that will continue through spring 2024. This is not related to the train derailment but is a long-term project that has been in the planning stages for a few years. Work is completed on South Street and will continue on East and West Clark Street for the next few months. Residents will be notified before work takes place on their street and may experience short interruptions in service. In addition, regular seasonal hydrant flushing will take place throughout the village the week of October 16. Residents might experience discolored water and low pressure because of this flushing.

## 02 Was water flowing into the creeks after heavy rains this past weekend from the derailment site?

No, water directly flows into Sulphur Run from the Sulphur Run bypass systems. The bypass systems carry water from the northeastern wetlands just outside of the derailment site and stormwater from Taggart Street to Sulphur Run that flows into Leslie Run at the Village Park. The bypass systems are a series of pipes that carry water around potential contamination at the derailment site. Water entering Sulphur Run from the bypass pipes is collected upgradient of the site. It is non-hazardous and has not come into contact with the derailment site or excavation activities. Intermittent flows from the bypass systems may affect water levels in Sulphur Run and should be anticipated while work to properly manage water from outside the derailment site continues.

## 03 What are current results for Ohio EPA's stream and fish monitoring?

Recent biological sampling in the streams includes habitat, fish, and macroinvertebrate (aquatic bugs) collection. Fish sampling results indicate that the fish community has returned to pre-spill conditions in Leslie Run near Negley. Fish community scores, a way to measure aquatic health, range from 12 (poor water quality) to 60 (high quality) and are based on the number of fish collected, different species found, and other factors. Leslie Run near Negley has been assessed four times since 1985 and fish scores have increased over time from 33 in 1985, 47 in 1999, 54 in 2022, and a score of 57 in 2023. More information is available from Ohio EPA at the following link: [epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/47/citizen/StreamUpdate.pdf](https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/47/citizen/StreamUpdate.pdf)

## SITE STATUS CHECK

As of October 13



### NORTH TRACK:

In operation

### SOUTH TRACK:

In operation



### LESLIE RUN:

Stream monitoring is ongoing

### SULPHUR RUN:

Stream monitoring is ongoing

## 34.9 million

est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite



## 159,371

est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite



## SAFETY MINUTE

### Harvest Season

Harvest season – According to the National Agricultural Safety Database, “Virtually every farmer knows of a family member, friend or neighbor who has been injured in a corn picker.”

Be prepared to slow down when you see flashing hazard lights and a slow-moving vehicle sign, as this may indicate that you are approaching a farm vehicle. When you see this sign, slow down, and stay back at least 50 feet from the machine. Most farm machines are not designed to travel at speeds greater than 25 to 30 mph.



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## EPA WELCOME CENTER CHANGES COMING SOON

As major excavation starts to wrap up at the derailment site, the EPA Welcome Center will be shifting to fewer days and meetings with community members will be by-appointment.

Stay tuned for more details and dates in the next issue!

## 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](https://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

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