

East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER

December 13, 2023



Inspection of a culvert in Sulphur Run underneath East Palestine

PROGRESS MADE

Sheen Assessments Completed

Last week, crews finished the qualitative sheen assessment in Leslie and Sulphur Runs. Every 25 feet, the creek bed was disturbed to look for any visible sheen. If observed, it was qualitatively graded on a zero to three-point scale depending on the amount visible (see graphic on right). Crews photo-documented the sheen and sampled the sheen and nearby sediment where sheens were heavy or moderate. More than 821 locations were assessed in Sulphur and Leslie Runs. EPA will use this information to determine what additional cleanup actions will be required in the creeks.

Culvert Cleanout Ongoing

Last week, crews completed assessments of most culverts under East Palestine to prepare for cleanout. Workers, drones, and even a robotic dog, which was used to enter confined spaces, entered five culverts. Air monitoring was done as a safety measure for crews operating in a potential confined space. No evidence of derailment-related chemicals were detected in air samples during these operations. Three of the culverts have been cleaned, including removal of sediment and debris, and a fourth is nearing completion. One culvert assessment for cleanout has not been completed (the largest culvert is about 800 feet that crosses under Taggart Road).

On-site Wastewater Treatment Maintenance

Last week, the on-site wastewater treatment system was temporarily shut down to allow crews to perform maintenance and make operational adjustments. Treated and sampled wastewater remains in the effluent tanks and continues to be shipped offsite while the system is down. Additionally, small liquid storage tanks remain on-site in case extra storage capacity is needed.

QUALITATIVE SHEEN SCORING

0	SCORE No sheen	
1	SCORE Light sheen assigned when a small presence of string-sheen is observed, and the majority of the stream bed area does not produce sheen during disturbance	
2	SCORE Medium sheen assigned when there is a step-down in the presence of sheen stream-wide, with basketball-sized bubbles and no odor	
3	SCORE Heavy sheen assigned when there is a stream-wide prevalence of sheen or larger amounts of sheen produced with odor upon disturbance	

A LOOK AHEAD

- Additional soil investigation in and around the derailment site continues, including confirmatory sampling.
- Groundwater monitoring will continue around the derailment site.
- The on-site wastewater treatment system remains temporarily shut down for maintenance and operational adjustments. Treated water and untreated wastewater will continue to be shipped off-site during this time.
- Winterization of the wastewater treatment system is ongoing that will include the installation of a large tent over the top of the system.
- Expect safety measures along Taggart Street to continue into January as operations continue at the derailment site.
- Site operations will be reduced during the week of Christmas and limited staff will be on-site. The Norfolk Southern Family Assistance Center will be closed from December 22 to January 1 and will reopen January 2, 2024.



Mudge the robotic sampling “dog” entering a confined space culvert in Sulphur Run underneath East Palestine



Small vehicles seen here use “direct-push” technology to advance sampling equipment underground to take samples at depth and confirm contamination has been removed

Changes to Norfolk Southern Temporary Relocation Assistance

On December 5, Norfolk Southern announced changes to temporary relocation assistance, including a notice that this portion of their support program will conclude on Friday, February 9, 2024. Information about the program and additional support and resources can be found on Norfolk Southern’s website: nsmakingitright.com/norfolk-southern-announces-next-phase-of-east-palestine-assistance-program/

Questions should be directed to their Family Assistance Center. Residents can visit in person at 191 E. Rebecca Street or call 800-230-7049.

COMMUNITY CORNER

The village was filled with festivities and fun this December at the annual **Snowflake Festival**.

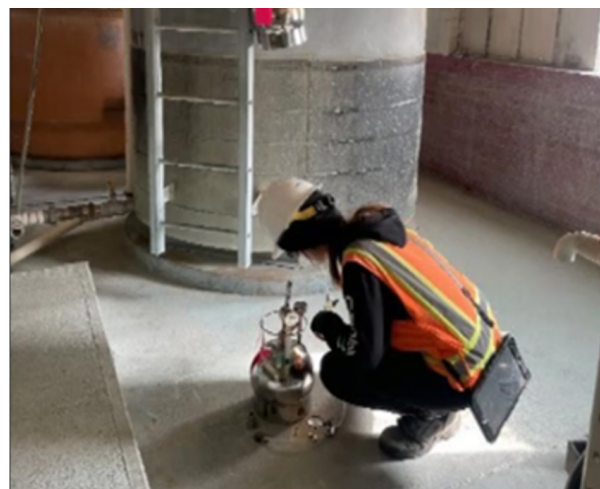
Families of all ages embraced the holiday spirit at breakfast with Santa, Christmas parade and much more.



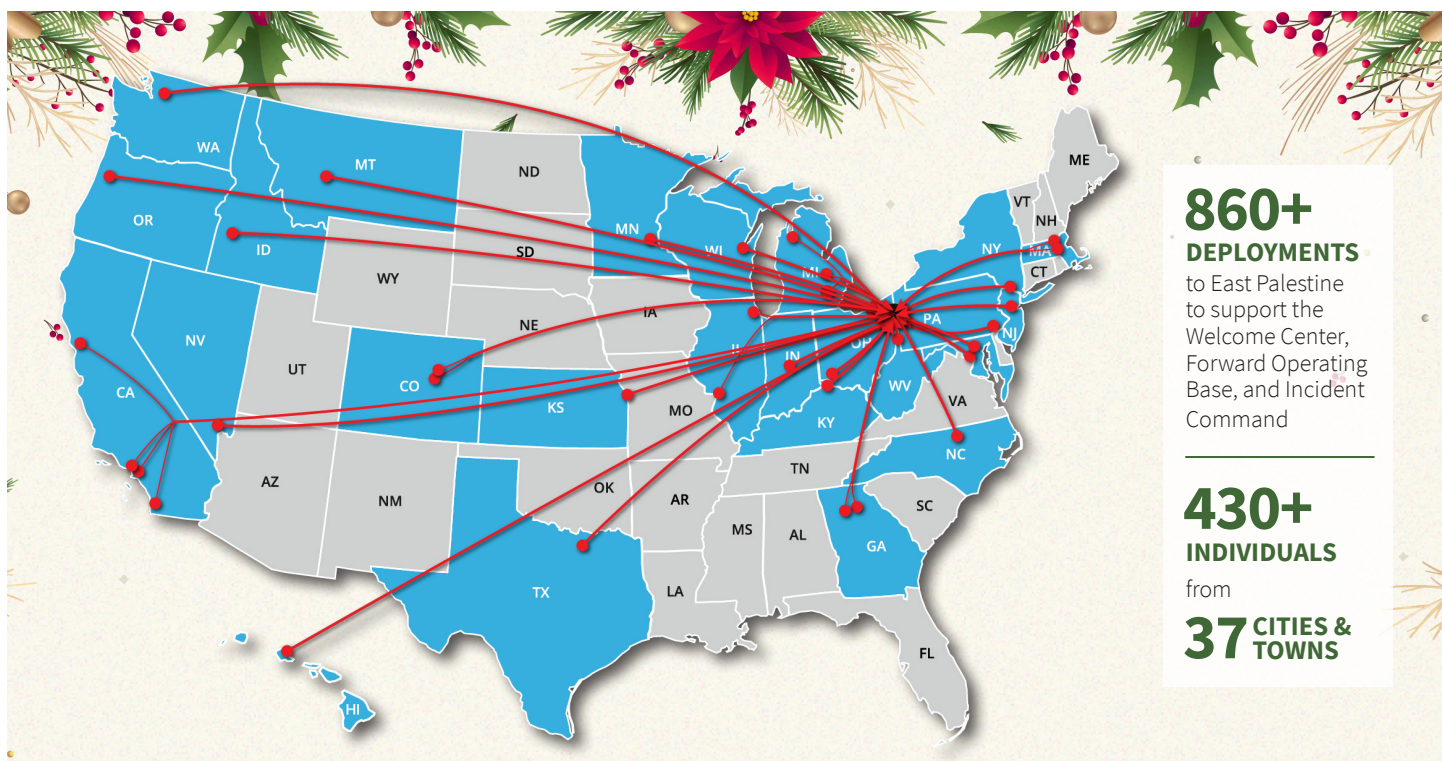
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Four commercial properties near the derailment site are part of “final confirmation sampling” (Appendix E of the EPA’s enforcement order) which is being conducted as a double-check to ensure the cleanup was complete. These four properties are where contamination was cleaned up immediately adjacent to the derailment. Assessment techniques include soil sampling at the ground surface and at various depths beneath the ground. It also includes using “vapor intrusion” methods to determine if contaminants of concern are present underneath the buildings. Part of vapor intrusion sampling includes drilling a hole through the concrete floor of a building and establishing a permanent air sampling port. The air sampling port is then sampled using an evacuated air canister for volatile organic compound (VOC) analysis.



Sampling in canisters for VOCs through a sampling port to check for potential contamination under commercial buildings



860+
DEPLOYMENTS
to East Palestine
to support the
Welcome Center,
Forward Operating
Base, and Incident
Command

430+
INDIVIDUALS
from
37 CITIES & TOWNS

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Los Angeles, CA | Boise, ID | Flint, MI | Westlake, OH |
| San Diego, CA | Chicago, IL | Traverse City, MI | Corvallis, OR |
| San Francisco, CA | Collinsville, IL | St. Paul, MN | Philadelphia, PA |
| Signal Hill, CA | Indianapolis, IN | Helena, MT | Dallas, TX |
| Denver, CO | Lenexa, KS | Durham, NC | Seattle, WA |
| Lakewood, CO | Erlanger, KY | Edison, NJ | Green Bay, WI |
| Washington, DC | Boston, MA | Las Vegas, NV | Wheeling, WV |
| Athens, GA | Chelmsford, MA | New York, NY | |
| Atlanta, GA | Fort Meade, MD | Cincinnati, OH | |
| Honolulu, HI | Ann Arbor, MI | Cleveland, OH | |

From all of us at EPA who've had the privilege to serve the East Palestine and surrounding communities, wishing you a very

Happy Holidays!



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

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

On Monday, December 4, the Village of East Palestine facilitated a webinar providing an overview of a report prepared by EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities, or TASC, program. The webinar detailed the environmental monitoring conducted by various agencies and summarized the information gathered to better understand the contamination released during the February derailment and controlled burn. More than 30 individuals attended, and many participated in a question-and-answer session that followed the presentation.

To view the presentation, scan the QR code or visit: eastpalestine-oh.gov/derailment-information-hub/



DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

These newsletters are now monthly. Mailings will also shift to Wednesday. Expect to receive the next edition on or around **January 10**.

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

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