

East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER

May 30, 2023



East Palestine Street Fair, May 24-27, 2023

PROGRESS MADE

- Waste trucks can now be loaded at an impressive speed of about 10 minutes per truck. Multiple trucks are placed in a row to form an assembly line and loaded using a large hydraulic clamshell bucket on a crane helping to save time. More than 6,000 solid waste trucks have left East Palestine.
- Burn pits 1 and 2 and the north track soils have been excavated.
- Excavation, sampling, and backfilling of the “centerline” area between the north and south tracks are nearing completion.



Burn pit excavation area



EPA Booth at East Palestine Street Fair featuring fun activities and educational resources.

THE WEEK AHEAD

AT THE SITE

- Centerline and burn pit work should be completed during the first week of June. The ditch north of the tracks and west of Pleasant Street is being sampled.
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- Truck traffic has increased near the derailment site. Up to 100 truckloads of soil and water leave the site every day. Weekends have less truck traffic.
- Taggart Street remains closed to the public.

IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- Air monitoring continues at 23 locations around town. Three mobile laboratories continually patrol the perimeter of the work areas to ensure protection of the public.
- Assessment work will continue down Sulphur Run and Leslie Run to determine next steps.
- EPA’s Community Welcome Center at 25 North Market Street in East Palestine is back 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.
- There are upcoming Public Health Information Sessions on June 1 and June 6. See the “Upcoming Community Events” section for details.

COMMUNITY CORNER

The Columbiana County Health District was recently presented with the Ohio Department of Health Director's Award for their ongoing response to the East Palestine train derailment. The Health District has been involved in many aspects of the response including the development and implementation of the potable water sampling plan that informs sampling for private water wells in the area. This allows residents who have been impacted by the derailment to have their water co-sampled by the Health District and Norfolk Southern at no cost. Along with peace of mind, this ongoing sampling program has provided a total of 442 sets of final sample results to date.

Congratulations Columbiana County Health District!



Director, Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff (left) presented the award to Health Commissioner, Dr. Wesley J. Vins (right) from Columbiana County Health Department.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are many different types of work trucks you may see around town. The trucks may look similar but have very different uses. Some community members have expressed concern about water wash trucks that appear to be spilling water. These trucks are spreading clean water to help reduce the spread of dust from the cleanup site. At the cleanup, most of the dust generated comes from gravel which was brought in as a surface for heavy construction materials used onsite. This is very common on construction sites. The gravel is being replaced by paving which will reduce the amount of dust. Hazardous water waste vehicles securely transport wastewater from the site for treatment. As you can tell in the pictures below, the two trucks are different sizes, and the hazardous truck has a placard on it reading "3082" to mean miscellaneous hazardous material.



Hazardous Water Truck



Clean Water Truck

SAFETY MINUTE

WALKERS • CYCLISTS • TRUCKS

As the weather warms up more people are walking and riding bikes around town. Please remember to be safe especially with the many work vehicles on the road. You are not always visible to drivers — especially those behind the wheel of a large truck or bus. Trucks need more time to stop!

Here are some safety tips to keep you safe:

- Walk on sidewalks and in crosswalks whenever possible.
- Be aware of blind spots. If you can't see the driver, they can't see you!
- Use caution when crossing intersections and streets.
- Wear bright or reflective clothing, especially at night.
- Watch for wide loads. Keep as much distance as possible from the trucks.

TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

01 Where do the dust control trucks get their water that they spray on the road?

The trucks get the water from the city water supply. It's pumped into the truck from a fire hydrant on Taggart Road.

02 Can I go visit the derailment site?

No. The site will remain closed to the public until work is completed for health and safety reasons. If you missed our "Track Talk" information session on May 18, the session showed a video and several photos of progress at the site. Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the meeting.



03 Is anybody sampling State Line Lake and the pond near the derailment site?

Norfolk Southern collects daily samples from the surface water near the derailment site, north of the tracks. State Line Lake flows through a wetland area and into the surface water area where the samples are taken. The agencies are reviewing all surface water results and Norfolk's proposed plan for characterizing surface waters impacted by the derailment.

SITE STATUS CHECK As of May 26



NORTH TRACK:
Estimated 85% complete
SOUTH TRACK: In operation



LESLIE RUN: Stream assessments are ongoing to determine next steps

SULPHUR RUN:
Bypass carries upstream water past derailment site



Up to **100** trucks a day carry waste off-site

19.5 million
est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite

52,054

est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite

COMMUNITY RESOURCE LIST

HEALTH RESOURCES

Pennsylvania Residents:

Call the Department of Health Hotline (877-PA-HEALTH) to connect with a nurse to find appropriate local health care services.

Ohio Residents:

The East Palestine Clinic is located at 139 North Walnut, East Palestine, Ohio

The clinic will operate:

- Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. by appointment only
- The clinic can be contacted by calling 330-383-6020
- The clinic is a primary care office for evaluating and treating acute illnesses, as well as focusing on health maintenance and preventive medical care

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania Residents:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

- Southwest Regional Office water testing line: 412-442-4000

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

- Pennsylvania farmers and producers who are affected by the derailment and have questions or concerns can call 855-777-6735

Ohio Residents:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

- For public drinking water quality and surface water results: 614-644-2160

Ohio Department of Agriculture

- For questions about livestock and pet health: 614-728-6220



(330) 775-6517



R5_eastpalestine@epa.gov



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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 1: Public Health Information Session

The National Institutes of Health will go over a series of workshops they will be holding to evaluate public health research needs in East Palestine and surrounding areas. 6-7 p.m. at First United Presbyterian Church.

June 2-4: Darlington Days

EPA will host a booth with activities for children and cleanup information and resources.

June 6: Public Health Information Session

The CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will discuss topics of interest and answer your questions about health impacts from the train derailment. 6-7:30 p.m. at First United Presbyterian Church. You can send questions ahead of time by visiting the EPA Welcome Center, calling 330-775-6517, or by emailing r5_eastpalestine@epa.gov

To watch recordings of earlier community info sessions, check out the Videos and Photos section of EPA's website: 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 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
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