

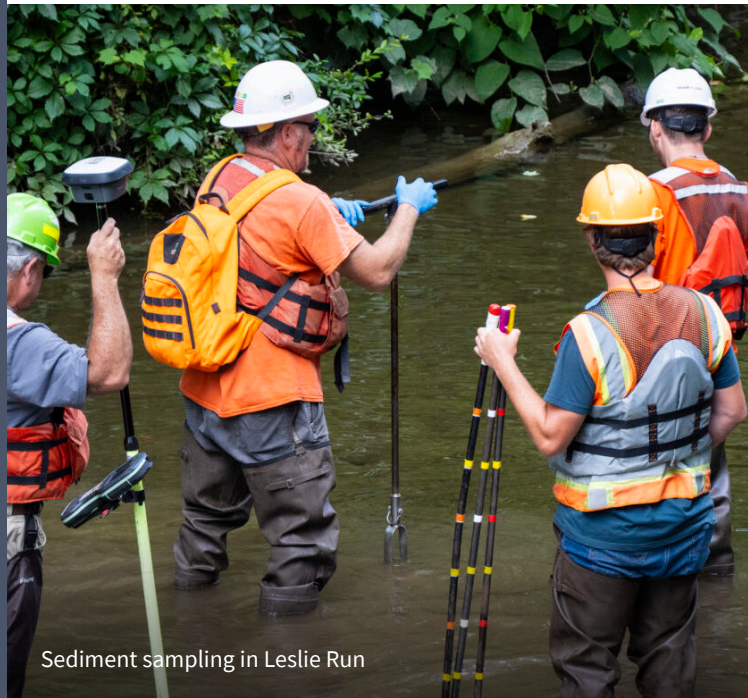
East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER

August 22, 2023



Sediment sampling in Leslie Run

PROGRESS MADE

South Ditch Excavation Progresses

Excavation of contaminated soil is ongoing at the South Ditch area running along the south track. During the excavation, a fiber optic line was found in certain areas planned for excavation, and for safety reasons, it was determined to keep the fiber optic bundle in place and to work around it while excavating and sampling. Where the fiber optic line is within the excavation area, additional soil sampling will occur above and underneath the fiber optic line.

Air Monitoring

The number of EPA air monitoring stations around the derailment site have been reduced from 15 to 9. Air monitoring data shows no work-related detections throughout the excavation activities. The remaining monitors still surround heavy haul areas near the work zone. Norfolk Southern contractors have additional air monitoring stations around the derailment site.

Water and Sediment Sampling Continues

Sediment sampling in Sulphur and Leslie Run has been completed. The results will be used to assess the impact from the derailment on the streams. More cleanup work may be conducted depending on the results of this assessment. Surface water sampling continues.



South Ditch excavation



On-site water treatment system

A LOOK AHEAD

AT THE DERAILMENT SITE

- The South Ditch excavation will continue.
- The excavation of Car Scrapping Area 4 south of the rail lines will begin.
- The on-site wastewater treatment system will begin start up testing. Once this testing is complete, off-site disposal of treated wastewater could begin within the following 1-2 weeks.
- Shipments of excavated soil and untreated wastewater for off-site disposal will continue.
- Taggart Street remains closed to the public.
- Daily drone operations for mapping the incident and surrounding areas will continue to aid in monitoring and oversight.

IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- Pre-cleaning interviews for indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses will continue.
- September 5 is the deadline to submit the request for indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses. This service is offered to address potential dust emissions generated as part of the cleanup work. Once the request is submitted, applicants will be contacted for a pre-cleaning interview. For more information call the EPA Welcome Center at 330-775-6517.
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) demolished the bridge over Leslie Run in East Palestine. ODOT is expected to continue working on this project. This work is not related to the derailment. For more information contact ODOT at 330-308-7817.

COMMUNITY CORNER

East Palestine Clinic Continues to Offer Free Services



The East Palestine Clinic continues to offer free initial screenings which include an examination, blood work and labs for any residents in need. The clinic will also evaluate patients for any illness they feel is related to the derailment. The clinic does not have an end time for residents to enroll. Residents can schedule same day appointments and the clinic will accept new patients for primary care. Having a primary care provider is the most crucial step in the preventative maintenance of your everyday health. Call today for a same day appointment: 330-362-4920. Clinic hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The clinic is located at 139 North Walnut Street in East Palestine.

DID YOU KNOW?

West Mayfield Pennsylvania is celebrating 100 years! In 1816, Mayfield was incorporated into Chippewa, and in 1887 the land was passed to the newly formed White Township. Around this time, the area known as Mayfield was little more than a station on the Pennsylvania Railroad. The station got its name from a farm up on the hill known as Mayfield Cottage. The area west of the station was known as West Mayfield. In 1880, the Edwards School was built. This one-room red brick structure also served as a community meeting house and an auditorium for lectures and other programs. In 1923, West Mayfield split from White Township and incorporated. This year, the West Mayfield Centennial Jubilee will celebrate its history with a parade, music, food, craft vendors, a ball field naming ceremony, activities for kids, and a historical display.



Edwards School circa 1930s

Source: West Mayfield Borough, Finney-Wade Collection

TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

01 Will my relocation assistance end if I request indoor cleaning from EPA?

Residents within the eligible area—the village of East Palestine and the 1-mile by 2-mile Ohio-Pennsylvania evacuation area—who request indoor cleaning through EPA are still able to receive relocation assistance. Norfolk Southern has committed to give at least a 60-day notice to people receiving relocation assistance before this assistance can end. People are encouraged to return to their homes after cleaning but are not required to do so.

02 What does the on-site wastewater treatment process on site entail?

EPA has approved a workplan to allow Norfolk Southern to treat hazardous wastewater on-site, removing vinyl chloride and other contaminants to dispose of the water as a non-hazardous waste. Currently, the train derailment site generates nearly one million gallons of wastewater per week from the collection of stormwater run-on and excavation-related groundwater. The treatment will lower vinyl chloride levels in wastewater to drinking water standards.

Treating the wastewater on-site to ship as non-hazardous will have many benefits to the community including fewer trucks on-site to haul wastewater to temporary holding tanks; fewer wastewater hauling trucks in the community at any one time; a smaller operational footprint of the site; and significantly fewer hazardous waste shipments transported through East Palestine and other communities. There will be no impacts to air, surface water, or soil. The system is temporary, and only intended to be on-site until cleanup operations are completed and wastewater no longer needs to be collected.

03 Interested in voicing your opinions and concerns related to the derailment?

A team of engineering and public affairs researchers from the University of Illinois Chicago, Cleveland State University, and Purdue University are conducting a study to understand community members' experiences and perceptions related to water, home, and environmental impacts after the East Palestine train derailment. If you'd like to participate, sign-up at: bit.ly/3JgPKQu or call **312-996-9416** for details.

SITE STATUS CHECK

As of August 18



NORTH TRACK:

In operation

SOUTH TRACK:

In operation



LESLIE RUN:

Stream monitoring and sampling continues

SULPHUR RUN:

Stream monitoring and sampling continues

30.4 million

est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite



90,197

est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite



SAFETY MINUTE

Cycling at Night



Although it may be thrilling to ride a bike around through the dark, it's imperative to stay safe.

Consider these general safety tips when riding in the dark:

1. Avoid construction sites
2. Equip yourself with the right lights
3. Make yourself visible
4. Ride with a buddy



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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- The East Palestine Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at the First Church of Christ
- August 26 - West Mayfield Centennial Jubilee in the Borough of West Mayfield
- August 26 – Final Artisans Against Domestic Violence at East Palestine Country Club
- August 30 to September 4 – Canfield Fair at 7265 Columbiana-Canfield Rd

STAY INFORMED

EPA continues to release short videos called “This Week at E.P.” to share what work is upcoming 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