

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (June 28, 2024)

- With the reduced site activities in mind, Unified Command has made the decision to formally transition to a ‘Multi-Agency Coordination Group’ on June 28. This transition is typical at long-term emergency responses and signifies great progress.
 - Representatives from all Unified Command organizations (EPA, Ohio EPA, Columbiana County, East Palestine, and Norfolk Southern), as well as assisting agencies, will continue to meet weekly to receive progress updates, discuss and coordinate work plans and ongoing field activities until they are completed.
 - As EPA and Ohio EPA continue to have legal jurisdiction over the cleanup, sampling and monitoring work under legal instruments such as a consent decree, orders and permits, both agencies will continue to have personnel on site and will be closely involved in day-to-day activities.
 - Public communications will be shared as needed instead of weekly, and a Joint Information Center will no longer be used. Information on the status of project will continue to be kept current on EPA’s [website](#). Operational updates, including a weekly “look ahead”, will be provided by Norfolk Southern on their [website](#).
- The small blue frac tanks continue to be removed from the site, along with the large plastic mats and liner underneath. Soil beneath the mats and liner is also being removed. Once confirmed as non-hazardous, this soil will begin to be loaded and shipped to a landfill in the next couple of weeks. Following soil removal, confirmation sampling will occur, and these areas will be graded and restored.
- Cleaning in Sulphur and Leslie Runs is now complete and no moderate or heavy sheen was seen after multiple visual assessments. This week, crews began a full reassessment of both streams, starting in Sulphur Run first. Sediment samples were collected at locations that were sampled in November 2023 with 6 additional locations added to enhance evaluation of creek impacts. Sampling will determine if more cleaning is needed. Additional full stream reassessments, including sheen scoring, are expected in the early fall and winter.
- Final confirmation sampling is 69% complete. Three small areas on-site where significant hazardous substance management operations occurred showed low levels of vinyl chloride present just above site screening levels. In accordance with the approved plans, soil was removed for off-site disposal. More details about this process will be included in the next site newsletter, including a description of how low-level exceedances of other volatile organic compounds will be managed.
- To assist with community safety efforts, work will be paused for the Fourth of July holiday and resume on July 5.
- EPA’s Welcome Center is open by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call EPA’s information line at 330-775-6517. Questions can also be sent to r5_eastpalestine@epa.gov.

Response by the Numbers *(as of June 28)*

- 179,865 tons of solid waste shipped.
- 71,890,780 gallons of wastewater shipped.
- Confirmatory sampling work is 69% complete.

What to Expect Next Week

- Continue site-wide confirmation sampling.
- Continue sediment sampling in Leslie Run.
- Continue tank reduction work and soil sampling in the tank farms south of E. Taggart Street.
- Continue shipment of untreated wastewater.