

# Updates from East Palestine Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio – Today, EPA published a new edition of the [East Palestine Train Derailment Response Newsletter](#) for communities in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The newsletter will be mailed to area residents and distributed throughout the community.

Stream contaminant mitigation and water quality Improvement efforts in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run are nearing completion. Air sparging has been an important part of this process, which involves putting air into the water so that oxygen, as well as microbes, are able to break down chemicals, specifically acrylates and glycols, in the sediment. Ohio EPA's [website](#) has an interactive map with sampling results that shows the effectiveness of this technique and surface water quality continues to improve. Along with containment and vacuuming/removing water from the stream, this is a standard technique for emergency response to eliminate contaminants from water.

EPA has also published several updates on the Agency's East Palestine Train Derailment Response [website](#), including:

- A new page [About Air Monitoring: East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment](#), which includes new images and videos of EPA's TAGA bus. The TAGA bus will continue to monitor air quality near the derailment site and in the surrounding community.
- New [maps](#) of TAGA's daily routes, as it has been active at the site since early March roaming nearly every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Response By the Numbers

- **More than 14,000 tons est. of contaminated soil shipped**
- **Over 10 million est. gallons of liquid wastewater shipped**
- **627 indoor air screenings**
- **The Welcome Center has received 448 visitors**

## What to expect this week

At the derailment site:

- We anticipate reaching major milestones for the south track backfill and restoration work at the derailment site.
- Work is ongoing to remove contaminated material from the derailment site along the south track.
- Sampling has continued while contaminated material is removed from track areas.
- Contaminated soil and wastewater will continue to be shipped off site.
- Continued [heavy truck traffic](#) along designated routes with Taggart Street remaining closed to the public.

In the greater community:

- Pennsylvania residents can call the Department of Health Hotline (877-PA-HEALTH) to connect with a nurse to find appropriate local health care services
- Air monitoring will continue at 23 locations around the community.

- EPA's mobile laboratory will continue to collect samples and conduct real-time air monitoring in the community.
- Crews will complete the majority of Phase 1 soil sampling by April 8, 2023.
- Creek agitation and aeration is nearing completion and creek soil washing will continue.

### **Air Quality**

The Unified Command issued a joint update late last week on the multilayered approach to measure air quality to the EPA website ([link](#)). Unified Command's top priority is the health and safety of the residents of Ohio and Pennsylvania whose lives have been impacted by the train derailment, and the member organizations remain confident that the air quality there is safe, and that the health of residents continues to be protected.

To date, 626 indoor air screenings have been conducted. Air monitoring continues 24/7 at 23 stations throughout the community. No detections of vinyl chloride or hydrogen chloride have been identified.

During the soil removal at the derailment site, EPA and independent contractors are conducting air monitoring within the work zone and throughout the surrounding community. This includes continuous air monitoring and sampling at the site and throughout the community. EPA's TAGA mobile laboratory is also conducting an air monitoring near the soil excavation area. EPA does not anticipate exceedances of levels of health concern because of the soil removal work.

### **Soil Removal at the Derailment Site**

Work at the site includes removing tracks in sections and removing soil and placing it in a staging area for disposal. Soil removal continues at the south track rail area; planning for the north track rail removal is underway. During the soil removal process, Norfolk Southern, with EPA oversight, will conduct soil sampling beneath the excavated rail track.

### **Liquid Waste Removal**

Wastewater is collected to ensure water does not leave the derailment site or staging piles of contaminated soil. Wastewater is generated after rain falls on contaminated soil and is collected and from cleaning and washing trucks before they leave site.

### **Soil Sampling**

EPA has reviewed preliminary data from some of the soil sampling related to the controlled burn that occurred during response actions to the train derailment in East Palestine. While final results will be available in the coming weeks, EPA's review of the preliminary data indicates levels of semi-volatile organic chemicals and dioxins in the samples are similar to typical background levels.

EPA and Norfolk Southern contractors continue to take soil samples at agricultural, commercial, recreational, and residential properties in both Ohio and Pennsylvania. To date, 129 properties have been sampled. This soil sampling effort will help identify if contaminants, including SVOCs and dioxins, are present and may have been caused by the train derailment.

