

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (October 12, 2023)

- Confirmatory soil sampling is underway in East Palestine Park. Although areas at and near East Palestine Park are being assessed, there has been no evidence of contamination in that area, other than known contamination in creek sediments. A previous assessment of East Palestine Park conducted in March did not show any contamination above background levels for derailment-related chemicals.
- Initial sediment sampling in Leslie Run and Sulphur Run has been completed and results are under review. As many in the community have observed, some of the sediments in Sulphur and Leslie Runs can produce a sheen when agitated. The extent of sediment contamination from the derailment is being evaluated and is expected to lead to additional investigation and cleanup. Some cleanup work has been performed in the creeks but residents should avoid them and “keep out” signs will remain to deter use.
- Indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses and pre-cleaning interviews continue, however, the deadline for new requests has passed. To date, 119 pre-cleaning interviews have been scheduled, 104 have been completed and 58 structures have been cleaned.
- The on-site wastewater treatment plant is operating around the clock; non-hazardous treated wastewater continues to be shipped off-site for disposal at an EPA-approved facility.
- The next biweekly edition of the East Palestine Train Derailment Response newsletter is planned for October 17. All editions of the newsletter to date are available on the EPA [website](#).

Response by the Numbers *(as of October 12, 2023)*

- 158,403 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped
- 34,874,852 gallons (estimated) of wastewater shipped
- 1,296 EPA assistance line calls received
- 1,087 visits to the Welcome Center
- 58 structures have been cleaned

What to Expect Next Week

At the derailment site:

- East Taggart Street began [phased reopening](#) on Monday, September 25. The road remains closed during daytime operations, from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Overnight, East Taggart Street is opened in both directions for all traffic to pass through the worksite. Safety controls remain, including signage, reduced speed, and flaggers.
- Contaminated soil excavation from South Ditch and Car Scrapping Area 4 will continue. EPA will continue to oversee all excavation activities, including post-excavation soil sampling, prior to restoration of excavated areas.
- Sitewide characterization continues in areas near the derailment location where equipment, materials, and debris were handled as part of the overall emergency response. More information is on EPA’s [Full Characterization Workplan](#) webpage.

In the greater community:

- Confirmatory soil sampling will occur in a different zone of East Palestine Park.
- Air monitoring around the perimeter of the derailment area and in the community continues with stationary air monitors and two mobile units.
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) continues replacing the bridge over Leslie Run in East Palestine. This work is not related to the East Palestine Derailment. For more information contact ODOT at 330-308-7817.