



East Palestine Train Derailment Chronology

March 27, 2023 | [By Chiron Return](#), Version 1.1

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East Palestine Street Fair, circa 1970.

Note to Readers, New York, March 27, 2023

Nearly two months into the East Palestine train wreck/dioxin crisis, we have a working semblance of a chronology. It comes close to the present, though we will be adding many entries that fill in events, dates, places and times.

This chronology is being constructed by the same team that did the 300+ page 'covid' chronology, tracking the history of the PCR analytical method, AI scripting of the associated claimed viral sequences, the global lockdown, and events surrounding the claimed mRNA injection.

We're accustomed to putting dates and obscure events together into the many-layered story they describe. East Palestine presents a comparable situation given the number of agencies involved, and that there were known to be 50 chemicals that were dumped and/or burned, and which combined into many other compounds.

However, East Palestine is an event with many eyewitnesses to strange developments that will not be recorded unless we do so. If you are in or around East Palestine and have a diary of the first days or first weeks, please contact us. I urge everyone reading to reconstruct your memories, and get them into writing.

We need the date, place and time of the event; and your source, whether it's a news report, a document, or personal memory.

Please send them to us at ediors@planetwaves.net.

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— **Eric F. Coppolino**
Supervising Editor

Chronology of Events Surrounding Train 32NB 101 (32N)

February 1, 2023, evening — Train 32NB 101 (32N) a Norfolk-Southern Railroad "general merchandise train," departs Madison, IL rail yard. Departure time is unrecovered and not recorded in the NTSB report on the incident.

February 3, 2023 — Train 32NB 101 (32N) derails in East Palestine, Ohio, at approximately 8:54 p.m., according to the NTSB report. Norfolk Southern

reported the incident to the National Response Center at 10:53 p.m. [The National Response Center is the EPA's spill hotline. The two hour delay is within reasonable and legal limits, to my knowledge. — efc]

The train was comprised of about 150 cars and 50 were affected. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, 20 of the 150 cars contained hazardous materials, and 11 of those were impacted by the wreck. Federal investigators said a mechanical issue with a rail car axle caused the derailment. [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)]

9:27 pm — Columbiana County, OH EMS asks for mutual aid.

9:35 pm — Mutual Aid call to Beaver County, PA, EMS firefighter self-reports he is responding to a fire in Palestine.

10:09 pm — Lawrence County, PA EMS mutual aid call for tankers, train derailment, hazmat issues.

10:35 pm — Call is logged into EPA National Response Center, NRC incident No. 1359227.

February 4, 2023 — Responders discovered contaminated runoff from the derailment impacting the nearby Sulphur Run and Leslie Run streams, the EPA said. Norfolk Southern contractors installed booms and underflow dams to restrict the flow of contaminated water. Residents near the derailment were asked to leave the area. [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)]

Freight train derailment leaves a mangled and charred mass of boxcars and flames as authorities launch investigation and monitor air quality from various hazardous chemicals on board the train. "The post-derailment fire spanned about the length of the derailed train cars," Michael Graham, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, told reporters Saturday evening. "The fire has since reduced in intensity, but remains active and the two main tracks are still blocked." [WKBN]

<https://www.wkbn.com/news/national-world/ap-us-news/ap-ohio-train-derailment-causes-causes-fire-home-evacuations/>

February 5, 2023 — Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine asked remaining residents to leave the area due to a rail car being at risk of exploding. DeWine also deployed the Ohio National Guard around 8pm, according to officials. Governor DeWine and Columbiana County officials issue an urgent warning to those living within a mile of the derailment to evacuate due to drastic

temperature change which could cause an explosion with the potential of deadly shrapnel traveling up to a mile, according to a press release.

"Although teams are working to prevent an explosion from happening, residents living within a mile of the site are advised to immediately leave the area," DeWine said. While most individuals in the one-mile radius have already evacuated, local officials say that more than 500 people have declined to leave their homes." [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)] [[Cleveland19](#)]

February 6, 2023 — DeWine and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro ordered the immediate evacuation of any remaining residents so Norfolk Southern could execute a controlled release of the rail cars' chemicals, preventing an explosion. "For now, out of an abundance of caution, Pennsylvanians who live within two miles of East Palestine, where this derailment occurred, should just continue to shelter in place this evening and keep your windows and your doors closed," Shapiro said.

Crews monitoring air quality "have not seen anything" unexpected, the Environmental Protection Agency said during an evening press conference with local officials. "So far, so good. And we're going to continue to monitor until the fire's out," James Justice of the EPA said. [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)] [[ABC](#)]

Remaining residents within a 1-mile by 2-mile area surrounding the village were ordered to leave before Norfolk Southern started the controlled release and burn of vinyl chloride in five cars around 4:15 p.m., DeWine said. [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)]

It is reported in a lawsuit filed by a Pennsylvania school district in March that explosives were used to rupture the cars and dump the chemicals. [source]

ALSO — The West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) deployed members to East Palestine, Ohio to help first responders after the train derailment. According to a press release, members of the WVNG's 35th Civil Support Team (CST), based in St. Albans, were deployed on Monday night after the Ohio National Guard contacted the WVNG J3 Joint Operations Center for support with the 150-car train derailment.

"Our personnel are currently on the ground assisting a combined local, state, and federal response to this dangerous and life-threatening incident," said Lt. Col. Jerry Floyd, 35th CST commander. "Our team members are highly trained for these exact type situations, and we are proud to provide assistance to our neighbors in Ohio.

The Ohio 52nd CST was the very first team on the ground in 2016 to assist West Virginia during the 2014 Elk River MCHM spill. It's our honor to return the favor and provide support for and with them." [WOWKTV]

<https://www.wowktv.com/news/west-virginia/west-virginia-national-guard-deploys-members-to-help-with-east-palestine-train-derailment/>

ALSO — Sir Caggiano, a former Battalion Chief with the Youngstown Fire Department, who is also a hazardous materials specialist, addresses the serious health impact of fire containing vinyl chloride. "The resulting fire is going to release the vinyl chloride, which will burn and turn into hydrogen chloride and turn into phosgene," Caggiano said. "Phosgene is pretty dangerous. It's ACG Chemical from World War One. ... It's a respiratory, you know, acidic type thing. It'll cause mucosal membranes inside your lungs to fill. You know, it'll be like pneumonia. ... It has an immediately dangerous to life and health rating of three parts per million." [WKBN]

<https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/east-palestine-train-derailment/first-news-speaks-to-hazmat-specialist/>

February 7, 2023 — Norfolk Southern press release claims the controlled burn of toxic vinyl chloride was a success. "The controlled breach of several rail cars has been completed successfully under the supervision of experts and first responders. Some of the material is now burning off consistent with expectations from the earlier models, and is expected to drain for a short number of hours. We have been, and will continue, monitoring air quality with the Ohio EPA. Remediation work at the site can now safely continue." [The Intelligencer]

Both railroad mainlines were restored to service one day after the controlled chemical release, Norfolk Southern said. [Cincinnati Enquirer]

ALSO — Another fire is reported as cleanup continues at the site of East Palestine train explosion. One of the box cars being cleaned caught fire, officials said. Columbiana County EMA Deputy Director Brian Rutledge said what was burning in that fire was not hazardous material.

"They were all just in normal range of a chemical structure fire," Rutledge said. "There was nothing of hazardous level in those results." Rutledge adds that the Ohio EPA intends to be in the area for a good bit, monitoring the air quality and sampling the water. [WTOV]

<https://wtov9.com/news/local/another-fire-reported-at-site-of-the-east-palestine-train-derailment>

February 8, 2023 — Several federal and one civil class action lawsuit has been filed in regards to the East Palestine train derailment. [We should name these plaintiffs. There will be a separate chronology related to litigation.]

One of the class action lawsuits filed in federal court against Norfolk Southern was by Ray and Judith Hall of East North Avenue in East Palestine. The complaint says the pair live in the “danger zone,” or the area that authorities ordered evacuated.

They claim Norfolk Southern was negligent for causing the accident and because of the derailment suffered damages, including the evacuation of their homes. Those filing a federal class action Wednesday against Norfolk Southern also include Grayce Easley and Jeffrey Jaffrey Zalick. The two claimed because of the derailment, the properties they own suffered a decrease in market value. [WKBN]

<https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/east-palestine-train-derailment/class-action-lawsuit-filed-against-norfolk-southern-for-east-palestine-derailment/>

ALSO — DeWine, Shapiro, East Palestine fire chief and incident commander Keith Drabick and other officials from both states said East Palestine residents could safely return home. NewsNation correspondent Evan Lambert was arrested for trespassing while attending DeWine's press conference about the derailment.

In a statement, East Palestine police said they asked Lambert to stop his live report because he was being "loud," which resulted in an argument. Police said they arrested the broadcast journalist after he refused to leave the area. Lambert was held in custody for about five hours before he was released, NewsNation reported. DeWine said at the end of the press conference that he did not authorize the arrest. [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)]

February 9, 2023 — The first Pennsylvania related class action lawsuit regarding the East Palestine train derailment has been filed in federal court. This is the fifth overall class action lawsuit that has been filed, with four of them being federal and one being civil. According to court records, Thursday evening a fourth class action lawsuit was filed in federal court against Norfolk Southern by two men from New Galilee, Pa., Andrew Erdos and David Anderson as well as a company owned by Anderson, Valley View MHP. The men seek damages relating to the fire and release of the chemicals in

the cars of the train caused by the release of the chemicals that they claim affect their land, properties and health. [For other lawsuits, go here.](#)
[WKBN]

<https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/east-palestine-train-derailment/first-pa-class-action-lawsuit-filed-against-norfolk-southern-for-east-palestine-train-derailment/>

February 10, 2023 — Contractors with Norfolk Southern installed a dam and water bypass at Sulphur Run to prevent further contamination of downstream waters.

The EPA sent a general notice of potential liability letter to Norfolk Southern, listing the areas the company may be liable for damages and cleanup pertaining to the wreck. According to the letter, some of the derailed rail cars contained vinyl chloride, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylhexyl acrylate, isobutylene and butyl acrylate.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is continuing to monitor the air, water and soil impacts from a train derailment that happened in East Palestine, Ohio, earlier this month.

Investigators said a broken axle caused the derailment of about 50 rail cars, including 11 carrying hazardous materials, on February 3. No one was injured in the wreck. [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)]

February 13, 2023 — Norfolk Southern submitted its remedial action plan to the EPA, detailing how it has responded to the derailment so far and what further actions it proposes. The company issued a remediation plan to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on Monday detailing its recovery efforts. So far, the company has:

- Pulled about 180,000 gallons of oil and water from the area, sampled surface water and water from storm sewers.
- Sampled surface water and water from storm sewers.
- Completed over 300 in-home air tests with the EPA, which have so far not detected any substances related to the derailment, [according to a news release.](#)
- Sampled the village's drinking water system and private wells that may be at risk. Those results are expected next week.

[[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)] [[Yahoo](#)]

February 14, 2023 — At a press conference, Gov. DeWine said Norfolk Southern agreed to pay for the cost of damages and cleanup in East Palestine, and will stay in the village until the situation is remedied. In an open letter, Gov. Shapiro said Norfolk Southern's conduct is currently under investigation by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)]

ALSO — Ohio Governor Mike DeWine states at a press conference that the lack of toxic classification for the train was 'absurd'. The governor's statement comes after the Public Utilities Commission claimed the toxic train derailment was not considered hazardous, despite the accident devastating the local area. [[Daily Mail](#)]

February 15, 2023 — The Ohio Attorney General's Office dropped all charges against NewsNation reporter Evan Lambert. "While journalists could conceivably be subject to criminal charges for trespassing in some situations, this incident is not one of them," Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said. "The reporter was lawfully present at a press conference called by the Governor of the state. His conduct was consistent with the purpose of the event and his role as a reporter." [[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)]

ALSO — As the clean-up in East Palestine continues following the Norfolk Southern train derailment and controlled release of chemicals, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost says he is considering taking legal action against the railroad company. "The pollution, which continues to contaminate the area around East Palestine, created a nuisance, damage to natural resources and caused environmental harm," Yost said in a letter sent to Norfolk Southern. [WKYC]

<https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/special-reports/train-derailment/ohio-attorney-general-dave-yost-considers-suing-norfolk-southern-train-derailment/95-ca97f793-1e39-4859-ae3a-0ca17b112a59>

ALSO — Ohio couple and their toddler daughter suffer respiratory infections after toxic train derailment as a local woman's chickens all die suddenly. Chris and Jamie Wallace, who live with their three-year-old daughter in East Palestine have all been diagnosed with respiratory infections following the hazardous train derailment. "Everybody has rashes, respiratory infections. It's downright criminal," said Chris Wallace to NewsNation. They began to show symptoms hours after the train derailed around 9pm, they said. [[Daily Mail](#)]

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11752379/Married-Ohio-couple-toddler-daughter-suffer-RESPIRATORY-INFECTIIONS-toxic-train-derails.html>

February 16, 2023 — Visiting East Palestine for the first time since the derailment, the E.P.A. administrator, Michael S. Regan, said that residents with private wells should use bottled water until tests showed that the well water was safe to drink. Mr. Shapiro, a Democrat, said that independent testing had not detected “concerning air or water quality readings” as a result of the derailment in Pennsylvania. [[New York Times](#)]

ALSO — Reports from phone logs via EPA hotline acquired under federal FOIA [[Grid News](#)]

<https://www.grid.news/story/science/2023/03/14/a-congress-members-staff-sought-help-from-epas-east-palestine-hotline-after-being-stonewalled-by-state-officials/>

A person from Beaver County, Pennsylvania, calls EPA hotline and said his wife had seen a doctor three times already, with no luck determining the cause of her symptoms, which began Feb. 10. They were concerned because they had been in the direct path of the smoke. (Beaver County’s northwest corner is just across the border from East Palestine, about one mile away.) Another woman, 12 miles from the site, called to ask if the water was safe to bathe her son. “He has cancer,” she reported. [[Grid News](#)]

Concerned caller reports on EPA phone hotline saying they used to work in the vinyl and PVC industry and wanted to flag their concern over the lack of dioxin testing. Another concerned caller says they used to work at EPA and for a public health department, and they were worried that the reports of rashes and headaches were due to dioxin poisoning.

They asked if the EPA was testing for the chemicals. The EPA operator’s notes again showed the lack of a cohesive response: “Another question on if EPA is testing for dioxine [sic], and if not why not — need answer to this question.” [[Grid News](#)]

An expert with the Union of Concerned Scientists also flagged the issue. He told the operator he had been on hundreds of dioxin sites in his career, and that “it’s impossible for there to not be dioxin.” [[Grid News](#)]

February 17, 2023 — Manny Burton, a legislative correspondent in the office of U.S. Rep. Chris Deluzio, a Democrat representing the Pennsylvania

counties just across the border from the derailment site calls the EPA hotline.

He told the EPA operator that they had been “getting the run around [sic]” when trying to get in touch with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, according to the hotline operator’s notes. “The Congressman’s office would like someone to call them back,” the operator noted. Apparently, the PA DEP did eventually get in touch. [Grid News]

ALSO — A woman calls EPA hotline upset that being just outside “that magic one-mile radius” meant she couldn’t have her house and farm tested. “I know I have toxic particulates in my attic and I was up there and coughing uncontrollably,” she said, according to a transcribed voicemail, adding that the toxic plume had shifted in her direction soon after the burn and that she didn’t know how to arrange testing. “I’m at my wits’ end.” [Grid News]

<https://www.grid.news/story/science/2023/03/14/a-congress-members-staff-sought-help-from-epas-east-palestine-hotline-after-being-stonewalled-by-state-officials/>

February 18, 2023 — Alan H. Shaw, the Norfolk Southern chief executive, [said](#) during a visit to East Palestine that hazardous material was being cleaned up. Liquid waste was being disposed of at a facility in Vickery, and solid waste was being shipped to an incinerator in East Liverpool, [the E.P.A. said](#). [New York Times]

February 19, 2023 —

February 20, 2023 — Ohio U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown and J.D. Vance [wrote a letter to the EPA](#), calling for them to monitor dioxins in East Palestine and the surrounding areas after the train derailment. Part of their letter sites the EPA, writing, “Dioxins are highly toxic, can interfere with hormones, and can cause cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, or damage to the immune system.,” adding, “the combustion of vinyl chloride can lead to the formation of dioxins.” [WFMJ]

<https://www.wfmj.com/story/48413942/experts-react-to-dioxin-concerns-in-e-palestine-after-senators-call-on-epa-for-tests>

February 21, 2023 — The E.P.A. [ordered](#) Norfolk Southern to identify and clean up contaminated soil and water, reimburse it for cleaning homes and businesses and attend public meetings and take other measures. The E.P.A. said that if the company failed to complete those actions, it would “seek to

compel Norfolk Southern to pay triple the cost" of the work. [[New York Times](#)]

ALSO — The Pennsylvania attorney general's office will investigate the toxic derailment of a Norfolk Southern freight train after receiving a criminal referral from state environmental officials. "Our office has been monitoring the train derailment in East Palestine and we are outraged on behalf of the residents who have suffered the consequences of this catastrophe," the office of acting Attorney General Michelle Henry wrote in a statement Tuesday. [CNN]

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/21/us/ohio-train-derailment-east-palestine-tuesday/index.html>

ALSO — Ohio Department of Health opens Health Assessment Clinic at noon for any East Palestine area residents who have medical questions or concerns related to the recent train derailment. The clinic will be held at the First Church of Christ, 20 W. Martin St., in East Palestine. In addition to two assessment rooms inside, a mobile unit operated by the Community Action Agency of Columbiana County, will be parked outside the church in order to accommodate more appointments. [WFMJ]

<https://www.wfmj.com/story/48407630/east-palestine-health-assessment-clinics-begin-scheduling-appointments>

ALSO — A woman who lived about 10 miles from the crash site calls the EPA hotline and reports developing a rash while driving to work early in the morning after the controlled vinyl chloride burn.

She tried to go to the clinic set up in East Palestine, but staff there told her she couldn't be seen because she lived outside the evacuation zone, a one-by-two-mile area crossing the Ohio-Pennsylvania border where residents had been told to leave when the crash and controlled burn took place. She tried the health department, poison control, and "all available resources" before being handed off to the EPA hotline. She "is frustrated and feels passed around to different agencies and hotlines without help," the operator noted. [Grid News]

<https://www.grid.news/story/science/2023/03/14/a-congress-members-staff-sought-help-from-epas-east-palestine-hotline-after-being-stonewalled-by-state-officials/>

EPA hotline operator responds to caller's concern over dioxin testing by "letting him know it's on the EPA's radar at a high level and is being considered." [Grid News]

<https://www.grid.news/story/science/2023/03/14/a-congress-members-staff-sought-help-from-epas-east-palestine-hotline-after-being-stonewalled-by-state-officials/>

February 22, 2023 — Former President Donald Trump visits East Palestine, Ohio village calling the federal response a "betrayal". "In too many cases, your goodness and perseverance were met with indifference and betrayal," Trump said. He appeared with Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, Mayor Trent Conaway and other state and local leaders. [WKYC] *Fact check on this — I heard in MSM he was five miles away. — efc*

[Photo caption] Former President Donald Trump visits East Palestine, Ohio after train derailment

<https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/special-reports/train-derailment/former-president-donald-trump-visit-east-palestine-next-week/95-87be4443-c2c4-4f6a-961d-9fd3acff50d0>

February 23, 2023 — In its first report on the accident, the N.T.S.B. said that the train's crew had received an alert about an overheated wheel bearing only shortly before the derailment. The agency found that while the wheel bearing was heating up, an alarm did not sound to alert the crew to check a hot axle until the train had passed a sensor not far from where it ultimately derailed.

"This was 100 percent preventable," Jennifer L. Homendy, the N.T.S.B. chair, said at a news conference in Washington.

Pete Buttigieg, the transportation secretary, visited East Palestine and promised support for the community. Mr. Buttigieg and other government officials had faced criticism over what some residents and lawmakers saw as a delayed response, and he acknowledged that he should have spoken out sooner. [New York Times]

ALSO — Nearly 45,000 animals have died as a result of the toxic train crash, according to environmental officials. The toll was all recorded within a 5-mile (8km) radius of the crash site, officials said. Mary Mertz, who directs the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), said in a news conference that all of the 43,700 animals found dead were aquatic species, and that

there is no evidence that any terrestrial animals were killed by the train's chemicals. [BBC]

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-64749041>

ALSO — Environmental activist Erin Brockovich arrives in East Palestine, Ohio ahead of a scheduled town hall. “You don't need to be a scientist or have a Ph.D. to question toxic contamination after witnessing a plume of black smoke involving hazardous chemicals, she said.” Brockovich advises the people of East Palestine to document every health concern, follow their instincts, continue to ask questions and use their voice. [WFMJ]

<https://www.wfmj.com/story/48437264/exclusive-erin-brockovich-talks-one-on-one-in-east-palestine-ahead-of-townhall>

ALSO — U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visits East Palestine where he tours the train derailment site and speaks with members of the community. “Before, during and after the national attention, they’re going to have support. They’re going to have support from us when it comes to holding Norfolk Southern accountable. They’re going to have support from the EPA when it comes to making sure they get accurate information about the safety of their air, water and soil. I think they ought to have support from the whole country that has seen what they’ve been through. ... The point is to make sure they’re taken care of for the long run.” [WKYC]

<https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/special-reports/train-derailment/pete-buttigieg-visit-east-palestine-ohio-train-derailment/95-a21fc19c-9a81-4593-b92a-497cdd2b7a97>

ALSO — The National Transportation Safety Board issues preliminary investigative report RRD23MR005 into East Palestine train derailment titled ‘Norfolk Southern Railway Train Derailment with Subsequent Hazardous Material Release and Fires’. [NTSB]

[Photo caption] Aerial photograph of derailment site on preliminary NTSB investigative report

<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/Documents/RRD23MR005%20East%20Palestine%20OH%20Prelim.pdf>

February 24, 2023 — According to Ohio governor, nearly 5,000 cubic yards of toxic soil was loaded onto dump trucks and immediately taken to US

Ecology in Van Buren Township, Michigan. US Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) said that Norfolk Southern made the decision to ship the material to Michigan, prior to the Environmental Protection Agency taking control of the operation.

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans is not happy about it, saying he and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office were kept in the dark about the transport of hazardous materials.

"It sounds in all intents and purposes that we were sandbagged. I don't know how you do that without contacting local officials so that we can number one, know how to respond to our communities, and two, to give advice about what routes to take and those sort of things," Evans said at a press conference.

[FOX2 Detroit] [Video 1] [Video 2]

<https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/ohio-train-derailment-toxic-materials-to-be-sent-to-wayne-county-for-disposal>

<https://youtu.be/8FG1E7pL88I>

<https://youtu.be/Zj-FP4fEhh8>

ALSO — Environmental activist Erin Brockovich hosts town hall meeting at East Palestine High School with her associates on a number of legal teams regarding freight train derailment. More than 2,000 people registered to attend the Friday meeting. "You want to be heard, but you're going to be told it's safe, you're going to be told not to worry," Brockovich said. "That's just rubbish, because you're going to worry. Communities want to be seen and heard." [KOLD]

[Photo caption] Environmental Activist Erin Brockovich holds town hall meeting at East Palestine High School on February 24, 2023 regarding toxic train explosion

<https://www.kold.com/2023/02/25/brockovich-warns-ohio-town-dangers-after-train-crash/>

A Youngstown, Ohio-based law firm has announced a class-action lawsuit against Norfolk Southern Railway over the derailment of a train in East Palestine, using a strategy it says echoes the state's 1990s lawsuit against tobacco companies. The firm, Johnson and Johnson, is partnering with class-action law firm Hagens Berman on behalf of all residents within 30 miles of the derailment site.

The lawsuit specifically invokes the legal doctrine of “public nuisance,” the backbone of both the landmark 1990s lawsuits against the tobacco industry and ongoing litigation against opioid manufacturers and fossil fuel companies. Hagens Berman represented the state of Ohio in tobacco litigation as well as an ongoing opioid suit.

“All of our lawsuit’s proposed benefits (monetary damages for all injured businesses & residents/individuals within 30 miles of the derailment, establishment of testing & cleaning protocols, a medical monitoring fund, injunctive relief oversight to Norfolk Southern’s safety & compliance programs) would be above and beyond what the EPA would have for residents,” Berman said.

“Additionally, we will want a say in what an effective cleanup is.” [The Hill]

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/3872818-east-palestine-residents-file-class-action-against-norfolk-southern/>

February 25, 2023 — Federal environmental authorities order a temporary halt on contaminated waste shipment from East Palestine train wreck to facilities near Houston and Detroit amid fears of further harm. Debra Shore from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said the agency had ordered rail company Norfolk Southern to “pause” shipments from the site but vowed that removal of the material would resume “very soon”. [The Guardian]

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/feb/25/ohio-toxic-train-site-east-palestine-houston-material>

February 28, 2023 — In the [first such proposal to emerge](#) in Congress since the derailment, two House Democrats, Chris Deluzio of Pennsylvania and Ro Khanna of California, [introduced a bill](#) to broaden the definition of what is considered a “high-hazard flammable train.” [New York Times]

March 1, 2023 — A group of Republicans and Democrats in the Senate proposed legislation to mandate that the Transportation Department [tighten safety rules for freight rail](#), the first sign of bipartisan activity on the issue since the derailment. [NYT]

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/01/us/politics/senate-rail-safety-legislation.html>

March 2, 2023 — EPA orders Norfolk Southern to begin testing for dioxins at the site of East Palestine, Ohio. The family of chemicals is known to cause cancer and other serious health ailments. The order comes after weeks of complaints from local residents that dioxin testing was not being performed by the EPA to ensure safety.

In response to concerns shared with me by residents, EPA will require Norfolk Southern to sample directly for dioxins under the agency's oversight and direct the company to conduct immediate clean up if contaminants from the derailment are found at levels that jeopardize people's health," Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement. [Politico]

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/02/epa-dioxin-testing-ohio-train-crash-00085339>

ALSO — Darrell Wilson, a senior Norfolk Southern official, [attended a town meeting in East Palestine](#), where residents shared their frustrations and some said they were still living in hotels or experiencing health problems. The E.P.A. [instructed](#) Norfolk Southern to test for dioxins, toxic pollutants that could have formed after the chemical burn-off. [New York Times]

ALSO — Activist Erin Brockovich attends second town hall meeting in East Palestine to inform attendees "via an educational seminar on how they can take legal action against Norfolk Southern for the train derailment toxic chemical spill", according to event organizers. "I spent all morning with some of the residents and I am very upset," said Brockovich. "They are obviously very upset. I just could not believe the amount of information coming in that they want to share... It seems like nobody is listening to them. They are so afraid. They get so many mixed messages. They are getting a total run around." [WKYC]

<https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/special-reports/train-derailment/erin-brockovich-visit-east-palestine-second-time-town-hall/95-22b9928d-7179-4e6f-85a0-dec884195f3a>

March 7, 2023 — The National Transportation Safety Board announced today a special investigation of Norfolk Southern Railway's organization and safety culture. Given the number and significance of recent Norfolk Southern accidents, the NTSB also urges the company to take immediate action today to review and assess its safety practices, with the input of employees and others, and implement necessary changes to improve safety. [NTSB]

<https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/NR20230323.aspx>

ALSO — Chiron Return issues citizen testing protocols for dioxins and furans in and around East Palestine. [link]

March 8, 2023 — Indiana testing finds every dioxin and furan they looked for in East Palestine soil. Governor Eric Holcomb however says third party testing of toxic waste brought to a Putnam County landfill from Ohio does not contain any harmful levels of dioxins when compared to acceptable levels established by the EPA.

"Pace Labs has completed and shared the full results of their third-party dioxin testing I had ordered and expedited last week. Initial samples were taken on Saturday morning, March 4, and testing began that same day at their Minneapolis laboratory.

These results indicate that the material tested does not contain any harmful levels of dioxins when compared to acceptable levels established by the EPA. Furthermore, these results demonstrate that the site operator is lawfully permitted to dispose of that material at its site. We have informed the EPA and the site operator of these testing results.

We will have Pace Labs continue to test samples of any future loads that may arrive in Indiana from East Palestine to confirm that none of the material contains harmful levels of dioxins." [WRTV]

[Photo caption] Graphic: Indiana test results for dioxins and furans

<https://www.wrtv.com/news/state-news/gov-holcomb-says-east-palestine-waste-doesnt-contain-harmful-dioxin-levels>

March 9, 2023 — EPA announces at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture at a church in Salem they would expand its sampling radius for dioxin and other soil contaminants potentially left over on area farms from the chemical burnoff of vinyl chloride in East Palestine.

"We don't believe that there have been significant impacts that would increase risk, but we can't make that determination unless we have data behind us to make those conclusions," said Mark Durno, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The science does not suggest we have a dioxin problem from this incident, however, we've heard very expressly from our local leaders and from the community that they'd like dioxin to be a part of the analysis," Durno said.

[Farm and Dairy]

<https://www.farmanddairy.com/news/epa-expands-soil-testing-on-farms-around-train-derailment-site/760518.html>

March 14, 2023 — The Ohio attorney general files a 58-count federal lawsuit against Norfolk Southern charging that the derailment of a train carrying hazardous chemicals last month in the village of East Palestine was a product of the company's negligence and recklessness, posing serious health risks to people in the area and causing "substantial damage to the regional economy."

The suit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, accuses Norfolk Southern of numerous violations of state and federal environmental laws; it also raises claims of public nuisance and trespass. It seeks to force the company to pay civil penalties, costs and damages to reimburse the state for economic losses and harm to natural resources.

"This derailment was entirely avoidable," the attorney general, Dave Yost, said at a news conference in Columbus announcing the suit. "I'm concerned that Norfolk Southern is putting profits for their own company above the health and safety of the cities and communities that they operate in." [The New York Times]

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/14/us/ohio-train-derailment-norfolk-southern-lawsuit.html>

March 18, 2023 — Aaron Bragg, provides an eyewitness account from East Palestine of a tank going up across the street from his property, a pile of contaminated dirt and a mobile EPA air sampling truck.

Photos will be included.

[Photo caption 1] The tank installation is across the street from Aaron Bragg's property which is believed to likely hold all the contaminated liquids. All this work was done over the last few days. The lot is new with approximately 12" diameter quick connect pipes they can most likely feed into and out of. Photo by Aaron Bragg

[Photo caption 2] Mobile EPA air sampling truck located across the street from Bragg's front yard. Photo by Aaron Bragg

[Photo caption 3] Dirt is piled up unprotected in Bragg's neighbors yard, approximately 600 feet away. Unclear what was being doing with the dirt. According to Bragg, they were pulling a heavy fabric down over the new lot they put it in. Photo by Aaron Bragg

March 20, 2023 — U.S. EPA holds webinar on Cumulative Impact Assessment: Research and Regulatory Activities at EPA. During this webinar, the assistant administrator for research and development moderated a panel of representatives from several EPA offices working to incorporate cumulative impacts into research, policy, law, and decision making. Each panel member gave brief remarks and followed a questions and answers session with attendees. The moderator was Chris Frey. Panelists included Sarah Mazur, Charles Lee, Ann Wolverton, Alan Walts, and Helen Serassio. [YouTube]

<https://youtu.be/7OED8Hs9cnQ>

March 22, 2023 — Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, The Honorable Jennifer L. Homendy testifies before the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and United States Senate on improving rail safety in the aftermath of the East Palestine derailment in Washington, DC.

Conclusion: The NTSB was on the ground in East Palestine on the first day following the derailment, and we are committed to finding out what happened, how it happened, and how to make sure that it never happens again. [PWFM]

<https://audio.pwfm.tech/documents/230322-ntsb-senate.pdf>

ALSO — Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency report preliminary soil test results from 15 farms in Beaver and Lawrence counties impacted by smoke from the chemical burnout following toxic train derailment show no signs of contamination. Dioxin levels allegedly came back within expected background levels for a rural area. "The EPA and DEP presenters felt these were good indications our soils are clean," said Cliff Wallace, president of the Beaver-Lawrence Farm Bureau. [Farm and Dairy]

<https://www.farmanddairy.com/news/test-results-show-soil-is-safe-at-pa-farms-after-train-derailment/762170.html>

March 23, 2023 — Pennsylvania school district sues Norfolk Southern for negligence over hazardous train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. The Blackhawk School District in Beaver County is alleging “the toxic fires and deadly plumes dumped a lethal cocktail on (their) buildings, property, soil, and water supplies where deposits of the toxic materials have been found,” the complaint states. The district demands a trial by jury and compensation for its students and staff for injuries and damages causing medical problems, the risk for future diseases, and the need for future monitoring of its properties.

[For other lawsuits, go here.](#) [CNN]

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/24/us/pennsylvania-school-lawsuit-norfolk-southern/index.html>

March 24, 2023 — Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection reports preliminary results from soil and water tests in Beaver and Lawrence counties show no signs of contamination from the Norfolk Southern hazardous train derailment. The DEP has been conducting independent soil and water sampling throughout affected area. “The negative results are an encouraging sign for Pennsylvania residents,” Rich Negrin, acting DEP secretary, said. “DEP will continue collecting samples over the next several months and the commonwealth will continue to lead the way so that Pennsylvanians are aware of and protected from any threats to their safety and resources that may arise.”

[The Keystone]

<https://keystonenewsroom.com/story/testing-shows-no-signs-of-soil-water-contamination-in-pa-from-ohio-train-wreck-and-chemical-burn/>

ALSO — U.S. independent chemical pollution researchers say the plan to test for toxic dioxins near the site of hazardous train derailment in East Palestine is flawed and unlikely to find the dangerous substances. Initial soil testing already revealed dioxin levels hundreds of times above the threshold that Environmental Protection Agency scientists have found poses a cancer risk, but that sampling was limited in scope. Regulators have said further testing being conducted by the Norfolk Southern-funded contractor Arcadis US will provide a broader picture than the initial samples.

But, among other problems, the plan relies on what experts characterized as an “unconventional” process to check for dioxins, and the results are “unlikely to give a complete picture”, of contamination in East Palestine, said Stephen Lester, a toxicologist with the Center for Health, Environment and

Justice. "It is very limited and I don't think it's going to answer the questions people in East Palestine have about dioxin exposure and the risk they have from dioxin exposure," Lester added. [The Guardian]

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/mar/24/ohio-train-derailment-dioxin-test-plan-flawed>

ALSO — Jennifer Homendy, the chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, testified before a congressional committee Wednesday to explain the federal agency's findings that hours worth of video footage was deleted from the Norfolk Southern train that derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. "In the East Palestine accident, the locomotive was equipped with an inward- and forward-facing recorder," Homendy said. "However, since NS [Norfolk Southern] put the locomotive immediately back in service following the accident, data was overwritten and only provide about 15 minutes of data before and 5 minutes following the derailment." [Huffington Post]

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/parts-of-video-missing-in-east-palestine-train-derailment_n_641dbf02e4b0a3902d36b61e