The crisis in East Palestine is a petrochemical & plastics disaster. Here’s how it’s unfolding.

- Friday, Feb. 3
  Thirty-eight cars of an eastbound Norfolk Southern train derail near East Palestine, OH after an axle malfunction. Ten derailed cars hold hazardous petrochemicals, including vinyl chloride.

- Sunday, Feb. 5
  Officials order all residents within two miles of the site to evacuate due to an explosion risk.

- Wednesday, Feb. 8
  Officials lift the evacuation order.
  NevNation correspondent Evan Lambert is forcibly arrested while covering Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine’s press conference.

- Friday, Feb. 10
  An EPA report reveals the train carried previously undisclosed chemicals, including ethylhexyl acrylate, isobutylene, and ethylene glycol monobutyl ether. Substances are detected in nearby waterways. Video footage shows the train’s axles caught on fire more than 20 miles before it derailed.

- Tuesday, Feb. 14
  At a press conference, Gov. DeWine reveals the train wasn’t classified as hazardous. Officials claim air quality is “normal,” advise residents to drink bottled water. Ohio EPA reveals a plume of butyl acetate is traveling down the Ohio River.
  Norfolk Southern offers impacted residents $1,000 “inconvenience” checks.

- Monday, Feb. 6
  Norfolk Southern executes a “controlled burn” of hazardous cargo to avoid an explosion. Billowing clouds of pollution darken the sky.

- Thursday, Feb. 9
  Norfolk Southern offers the city of East Palestine a $25,000 donation.

- Monday, Feb. 13
  Thirty-five miles from the derailment site, Shell’s Monaca petrochemicals complex begins emergency flaring after an equipment malfunction.

- Wednesday, Feb. 15
  Norfolk Southern backs out of a town hall meeting regarding the derailment, citing “safety issues.”

- Wednesday, Feb. 15
  Officials say municipal water is safe to drink.
  Ohio’s Attorney General drops charges against NevNation reporter Evan Lambert.
Ohio Dept. of Health sets up a medical clinic in East Palestine.

Cincinnati announces it will close municipal water intake along the Ohio River “out of an abundance of caution.”

EPA orders Norfolk Southern to clean up the site, threatening the company with a $70,000 per day fine should it “fall short.”

Gov. DeWine, EPA head Regan, and Ohio Congressman Bill Johnson drink tap water from an East Palestine resident’s home.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro announces a criminal referral to investigate Norfolk Southern’s handling of the derailment.

Community group River Valley Organizing hosts public town hall with legal and public health experts.

A National Transportation Safety Board report says the derailment was “100% preventable.”

The estimated animal death toll within a five-mile radius of the site tops 43,700, per Ohio’s Dept. of Natural Resources.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visits East Palestine, apologizing for not coming sooner.

Regional EPA administrator Debra Shore orders Norfolk Southern to pause waste shipments, saying waste disposal plans will now be subject to federal EPA review and approval.

Thursday, Feb. 16

Another Norfolk Southern train hauling hazardous materials derails near Detroit. No toxins were released, officials say.

Videos from local residents and Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio) show an oily, "rainbow-colored" sheen in creek water near the derailment.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan arrives in East Palestine.

Friday, Feb. 17

FEMA deploys to East Palestine to “support ongoing operations [and gauge] long term recovery needs.”

Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw visits East Palestine.

Saturday, Feb. 18

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Gov. DeWine, EPA head Regan, and Ohio Congressman Bill Johnson drink tap water from an East Palestine resident’s home.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro announces a criminal referral to investigate Norfolk Southern’s handling of the derailment.

Thursday, Feb. 23

Norfolk Southern sends firefighting water to Harris County, Texas and contaminated soil to Belleville, Michigan for disposal. Officials say they received no warning their communities would be receiving waste from the derailment.

Former President Donald Trump visits East Palestine.

Friday, Feb. 24

EPA deploys to East Palestine to “support ongoing operations [and gauge] long term recovery needs.”

Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw visits East Palestine.

Saturday, Feb. 25

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Monday, Feb. 27

Buttigieg asks Norfolk Southern and other rail companies to commit to a voluntary program allowing workers to report safety hazards “by the end of the week.”

Pennsylvania Dept. of Health opens a health resource center in Beaver County, across the river from the derailment site.

Sunday, Feb. 26

Shore says liquid waste will be injected and solid waste incinerated in East Liverpool, Ohio; Vickers, Ohio; Grafton, Ohio; and East Putnam, Indiana.

DeWine says up to seven new “monitoring” wells will be drilled beneath the site to test groundwater for contaminants.