

# 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**.

## Monday, Feb. 6

Norfolk Southern executes a "**controlled burn**" of **hazardous cargo** to avoid an explosion. Billowing clouds of pollution darken the sky.

## Wednesday, Feb. 8

**Officials lift the evacuation order.**

NewsNation correspondent Evan Lambert is **forcibly arrested** while covering Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's press conference.

## Thursday, Feb. 9

Norfolk Southern offers the city of East Palestine a **\$25,000 donation**.

## 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**.

## Monday, Feb. 13

Thirty-five miles from the derailment site, **Shell's Monaca petrochemicals complex begins emergency flaring** after an equipment malfunction.

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection issues Shell a Notice of Violation for **exceeding its annual emissions limits of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides**.

Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources confirms more than **3,500 fish have died** in nearby waterways.

Norfolk Southern releases a Remedial Action Work Plan.

## 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**.

## Wednesday, Feb. 15

**Norfolk Southern backs out** of a town hall meeting regarding the derailment, citing "safety issues."

Officials **say municipal water is safe** to drink.

Ohio's Attorney General **drops charges** against NewsNation reporter Evan Lambert.

## 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.

## Saturday, Feb. 18

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

Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw visits East Palestine.

## Wednesday, Feb. 22

**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

President Biden directs federal agents to **distribute flyers with health surveys and information** on federal and local resources to East Palestine residents.

Environmental whistleblower Erin Brockovich hosts a town hall in East Palestine.

## Friday, Feb. 17

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."

## Tuesday, Feb. 21

**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.

## Thursday, Feb. 23

**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.

## Saturday, Feb. 25

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.

## 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.

## 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.

