

# EAST PALESTINE URGENT EVACUATION NOTICE

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Following an evening briefing regarding the train derailment in East Palestine, Governor DeWine and Columbiana County officials are issuing an urgent warning to those living within a mile of the derailment. Within the last two hours, a drastic temperature change has taken place in a rail car, and there is now the potential of a catastrophic tanker failure which could cause an explosion with the potential of deadly shrapnel traveling up to a mile.

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. 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.

Those who have the means to leave are advised to immediately evacuate. Those who need help evacuating the area should call 330-426-4341. According to the Columbiana County Sheriff, those with children in their homes who decline to evacuate may be subject to arrest.

At approximately 8 p.m., Governor DeWine activated the Ohio National Guard to deploy to the scene to assist lo-

cal authorities. The Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and Ohio EPA are also assisting.



## East Palestine Update: Evacuation Area Extended, Controlled Release of Rail Car Contents

(EAST PALESTINE, Ohio)— Following new modeling information conducted this morning by the Ohio National Guard and U.S. Department of Defense, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro are ordering an immediate evacuation in a one-mile by two-mile area surrounding East Palestine which includes parts of both Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The vinyl chloride contents of five rail cars are currently unstable and could potentially explode, causing deadly disbursement of shrapnel and toxic fumes. To alleviate the risk of uncontrollable shrapnel from an explosion, Norfolk Southern Railroad is planning a controlled release of the vinyl chloride at approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

According to Norfolk Southern Railroad, the controlled release process involves the burning of the rail cars' chemicals, which will release

fumes into the air that can be deadly if inhaled. Based on current weather patterns and the expected flow of the smoke and fumes, anyone who remains in the red affected area is facing grave danger of death. Anyone who remains in the yellow impacted area is at a high risk of severe injury, including skin burns and serious lung damage.

In Ohio, the areas at risk include eastern East Palestine, including Parker, South Pleasant, BFI



Access Road, Taggart Street, North Pleasant Road, Failor Road, and East Martin, east of Pleasant. Those who need help evacuating the area should call 330-457-0733 or 330-457-2455.

According to the Columbiana County Sheriff, those with children in their homes who decline to evacuate may be subject to arrest.

In Pennsylvania, anyone needing assistance should call the State Police Beaver Station at 724-773-7400. Any-

one in the area in need of information regarding the evacuation and shelter in place orders should call Beaver County Emergency Services at 724-775-0880.

It is believed that most individuals have already left the impacted areas, but law enforcement in both states are currently working to ensure that all individuals have left the vicinity prior to the controlled release. Depending on the exact amount of material currently inside the rail cars, the railroad estimates that the controlled release of chemicals could burn for 1 to 3 hours. It is unknown when residents will be able to return to their homes but an announcement will be made when it is safe to return.



## Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

For the week ending February 10, 2023



Governor DeWine pointing out the evacuation zone during a press conference to update residents on the derailment.

**On Monday**, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine traveled to East Palestine to meet with local officials and emergency responders following the derailment of a Norfolk Southern Railway train. Governor DeWine activated the Ohio National Guard and sent personnel from the Ohio State Highway Patrol to assist local authorities. Governor DeWine conducted a press conference urging residents within a 1-mile by 2-mile area surrounding East Palestine to evacuate while the railroad company conducted a controlled release of chemicals from the rail cars.

**Also on Monday**, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) announced applications for funding to develop and implement projects that enable and encourage children to safely walk or bike to school are open.

ODOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is funded at \$5 million annually, a \$1 million increase from last year. It provides funding for infrastructure improvements such as pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, new or improved sidewalks, and bike racks. It also helps fund non-infrastructure activities such as walk to school days, bike rodeos, public awareness campaigns, and educational programs.

"Ensuring that Ohio children get to school safely by walking and biking is just as important as ensuring safe travels in a school bus or car," said Governor Mike DeWine. "The additional funding provided to this program will allow more communities and schools to make routes between home and school safe, convenient, and accessible."

**Lastly on Monday**, Governor DeWine released Ohio's Comprehensive School Safety Framework that outlines recommended

strategies that schools can use toward creating physically and emotionally safe environments for students.

"There is nothing more important than the well-being of our kids, and this framework outlines strategies that schools can implement to help ensure a safe learning environment and positive school climate," Governor DeWine said.

**Governor DeWine at the new Franklin County Crisis Care Center groundbreaking**



**On Tuesday**, Governor DeWine attended the groundbreaking for the new Franklin County Crisis Care Center. In alignment with Governor DeWine's mental health initiatives, the center is a community-wide investment that will serve adults and their families with a full array of services to support individuals with both mental health and substance use disorders.



**On Wednesday**, Lt. Governor Jon Husted rolled out his proposal that would require certain online companies to obtain verifiable parental consent to contractual terms of service before permitting

kids under the age of 16 to use their platforms. You can find more information and a fact sheet here.

**Also on Wednesday**, Lt. Governor Husted attended the Dayton Development Coalition's (DDC) Annual Meeting where he received the "Maureen Patterson Regional Leader Award," which honors extraordinary leaders in the community who advocate for the community's economic health and growth.

**Also on Wednesday**, Lt. Governor Husted provided remarks at the grand opening celebration for the Sierra Nevada Corporation's new hangar at the Dayton International Airport.

**Governor DeWine receiving updates on the derailment before announcing that residents could return home safely**

**Finally on Wednesday**, Governor DeWine, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, East Palestine Fire Chief and Incident Commander Keith Drabick, and local, state, and federal officials representing both states announced that evacuated residents in and around East Palestine could safely return home.

**On Thursday**, Lt. Governor Husted gave remarks at the Ohio Association for Career Technical Education and Ohio Association for Career Technical Superintendents Legislative Seminar. During his speech, he highlighted the Career Tech proposal in the executive version of the state operating budget.

**Also on Thursday**, Lt. Governor Husted traveled to Mansfield to meet with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development to discuss items in the executive budget related to TechCred, the Common Sense Initiative (CSI), the All Ohio Future Fund, and more.

**Lastly on Thursday**, the Ohio Department of Development announced that \$10 million in grant funding remains available to sup-



port minority- and women-owned Ohio businesses grow and expand their operations.

The Women's Business Enterprise Loan Program and Ohio Micro-Loan Program are priority initiatives of the DeWine-Husted Administration and were included in the 2022-2023 operating budget, which was passed in by the Ohio General Assembly in June 2021.

**On Friday**, Lt. Governor Husted discussed his proposed Social Media Parental Notification Act with WSNY-94.7 FM.

"Social media companies are making billions from products that can be very harmful to our kids, and we need to give parents more tools to protect their children," he said.

**Also on Friday**, the Ohio Department of Education recognized National School Counseling Week.

"With a role that supports students in so many ways, we thank school counselors for elevating school communities as they encourage students to reach their God-given potential," Governor DeWine said.

