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## East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment Unified Command

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**March 31, 2023** – Unified Command’s top priority is the health and safety of the residents of Ohio and Pennsylvania whose lives have been impacted by the train derailment, and the member organizations remain confident that the air quality there is safe, and that the health of residents continues to be protected.

Over the course of the derailment, we have implemented a phased multilayered approach to measure air quality in Ohio and Pennsylvania, including sorbent tubes, summa canisters, the U.S. EPA Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus, passive badges, and handheld devices, which provide separate and redundant sources of data on air quality in affected communities.

Response officials recently suspected that select handheld devices may not be sensitive enough to detect butyl acrylate at low levels in the air. U.S. EPA is working with the meter manufacturers to obtain more information about the handheld devices in relation to butyl acrylate measurements and conducting additional testing and evaluations of the devices.

Butyl acrylate reacts in the environment and degrades in the presence of sunlight, making it unlikely to persist in the air. In addition, butyl acrylate can generally be smelled at levels far below levels of health concern.

No long-term effects are expected from potential short-term exposure from butyl acrylate. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma, emphysema, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease may be more likely to experience symptoms to this class of chemicals, or this type of exposure may exacerbate pre-existing conditions. Butyl acrylate is a known dermal sensitizer, which means that future exposures may result in an increased reaction, such as a rash or skin irritation. For more information about how environmental odors can affect you, please review this fact sheet from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention here: [Are Environmental Odors Toxic \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/odors/).

To date, preliminary information from residents who already took the Assessment of Chemical Exposure (ACE) survey included symptoms such as headaches, cough, and eye irritation. These symptoms are consistent with what might be expected from possible exposures to chemicals of potential concern released during and immediately following the derailment. The ACE survey will be closed after March 31st. Additional survey efforts are being considered.

Health officials continue to support and provide resources to those who are reporting symptoms that may be related to the derailment. If you have health questions or concerns about odors or experience symptoms you believe are related to the derailment, we encourage

you to contact a health care provider or to contact the Poison Control Center (made up of Pittsburgh and Ohio poison centers) hotline at 1-877-603-0170.

**For further health information:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Odor Factsheet: [Are Environmental Odors Toxic \(cdc.gov\)](#)

For Ohio residents

- By walk-in (no appointment necessary) at the Ohio Clinic. For hours of operation, please call 330-424-0272. This clinic will be moving to a permanent location to support the community for an ongoing basis.

For Pennsylvania residents

- Contact the Pennsylvania Health Resource Center for more information at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)

It is natural to feel post-traumatic stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during and after an emergency. There are resources available to help:

- For immediate assistance, CALL or TEXT the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) at 1-800-985-5990 (press #2 for Spanish).
- [Ohio's CareLine](#) can offer free, confidential, and emotional support with a trained specialist. Call 1-800-720-9616 to connect.
- [Pennsylvania's Support & Referral Helpline](#) connects Pennsylvanians with mental and emotional support and to local resources. Call 855-284-2494 (TTY: 724-631-5600).
- For more information on managing stress, visit: [Community Stress Fact Sheet | ATSDR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

**Unified Command includes:**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Columbiana County Emergency Management Agency  
Village of East Palestine  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Norfolk Southern Corporation

**With the cooperation and assistance of the:**

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Pennsylvania Department of Health