



A Union of Professionals

WORK SHOULDN'T HURT

# Resources for Norfolk Southern Victims

February 28, 2023

## Assistance for Evacuated Residents

- [U.S. EPA Information Page on the East Palestine Train Derailment](#)  
U.S. EPA Information Line: 215-814-2400
- [Ohio EPA Information Page on the East Palestine Train Derailment](#)
- [Ohio Emergency Management Agency | Emergency Management Agency](#)
- Columbiana County Emergency Management Agency: 330-424-7139
- Norfolk Southern Family Assistance Center: 800-230-7049
- Train Derailment Hotline: 234-542-6474 (for questions **about odors, fumes, animals, health, and other concerns**)
- Columbiana County Health Department:
  - For questions about private well water quality: 330-424-0272
  - To request **air quality** monitoring (only for residences within the 1-mile evacuation zone): 330-849-3919

## Workers' Compensation

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation has created a specialized team to specifically handle any workers' compensation claims related to the derailment. These claims

will be subject to the same standards, rules, and laws as any other claim within the jurisdiction of Ohio but will be administered by staff members with specialized knowledge related to toxic substance/harmful physical agent exposure. All claim-related inquiries may be directed to Sarah Shackelford at [Sarah.S.2@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:Sarah.S.2@bwc.state.oh.us) or Wilma Rhone-Perez [Wilma.P.1@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:Wilma.P.1@bwc.state.oh.us).

## Health Monitoring Resources

Get medical attention if you or a family member are experiencing health problems, or an existing problem has gotten worse. It will be important to document this if the problem persists. You can request your medical records from your provider if needed.

Keep personal records of where you were and potential exposures at work or in the community.

## Health Monitoring and Surveillance for Emergency Responders

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NIOSH/CDC) can monitor the health of response workers. This includes nurses and healthcare workers, police, fire, emergency medical personnel, cleanup, repair, restoration, and recovery workers. Local leaders or union staff can contact NIOSH to get members enrolled in this program.

[Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance \(ERHMS\) | NIOSH | CDC](#)

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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.7 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten  
PRESIDENT

Fedrick C. Ingram  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Evelyn DeJesus  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



**Environmental and occupational health clinics** are specialized providers with experience in diagnosing, treating, and monitoring health problems caused by hazardous exposure in the workplace and in the home. The closest clinic is in West Virginia. For more information on environmental and occupational health clinics see [AOEC - Home](#).

### **West Virginia University School of Medicine**

Occupational Medicine  
3860 Robert C. Byrd Health Science Center South  
Morgantown, WV 26506-9145  
Chris Martin, MD, MSc – Director,  
[cmartin@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:cmartin@hsc.wvu.edu)  
Phone: 304-293-3693  
Fax: 304-293-2629

### **Community Epidemiological Evaluation**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a rapid epidemiological evaluation for communities (not individuals):

[Requesting an Epi-Aid - Epidemiologic assistance from CDC.](#)

### **Mental Health Resources**

Living through this traumatic incident will create additional stress, anxiety, anger, and depression for people. These are normal reactions but may be hard to live with. Mental health resources are available to help.

### **[Trauma Counseling Programs and Services | American Federation of Teachers \(aft.org\)](#)**

AFT offers free trauma counseling to members in good standing, including those on leave status and affiliate staff. Trauma counseling is an innovative form of mental health care that provides confidential therapy at any time in the one-year aftermath of a traumatic incident. Once the free coverage ends, or if you want to obtain counseling for a family member, you have the option to purchase coverage for

as little as \$4.00 per month for yourself or \$16.00 per month for family members.

[Disaster Distress Hotline | PSAs for Disasters \(cdc.gov\)](#) Call 1-800-985-5990 for the Disaster Distress Helpline which provides confidential counseling, referrals, and other support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Cleaning**

**DO NOT:** Use bleach to clean surfaces in their home to remove contamination. Bleach can react with other chemicals and create additional hazardous exposures.

**DO:** Clean surfaces with water with a little added detergent. Wash dishes, utensils, and toys that can be submerged in soapy water and rinsed. Launder clothes and bedding as normal.

**DO:** Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter. Replace the filter after you have completed the first round of cleaning. Put on a mask while vacuuming and replacing the filter. Discard the mask afterwards. Open windows when vacuuming.

### **Local Resources for Community Engagement**

[River Valley Organizing - Home](#)

Community organizing group for the Ohio River Valley that works on environmental justice and other issues.

[Between The Waters – Water activism \(betweenthewaterscom.org\)](#)

Grassroots group that addresses water quality and public health issues, as well as mental health concerns.

### **Verified donation sites for affected communities in Ohio and Pennsylvania**

Clean Air Council: <https://t.co/MRqYZDZL0x>

Beaver County, PA: <https://gofund.me/8198e742>