

# ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL EXPOSURE INVESTIGATION RESULTS

In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency, worked to evaluate the train derailment's impact on the community's health using its [Assessment of Chemical Exposures \(ACE\)](#) investigation tool. Chemicals released in the train derailment included smoke and particulate matter, vinyl chloride, phosgene, hydrogen chloride, 2-butoxyethyl acetate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and benzene. Additional information on these chemicals and the effects on human health as well as updates on response activities like waste removal and environmental sampling can be found on the Ohio EMA page: <https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/east-palestine-derailment-info>.

Community members shared information about their health and ongoing needs after the incident through completion of an ACE survey in-person at the health resource center, online via a weblink, or by responding to door-to-door canvassing efforts. The survey was open from February 21 to March 31.

## WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ACE SURVEY?

528 Ohio residents completed the ACE survey, which included about 6% of Ohio residents who live or work within the 2-mile radius of the derailment site.

The majority of survey respondents were people who came to the Ohio Department of Health's Health Assessment Clinic and therefore already had questions and/or health concerns. Because of that, the survey may not represent the whole community's experiences.

## WHAT WERE THE MAIN FINDINGS?

### Chemical Exposure:

- 88% surveyed said they were exposed to harmful substances in the air, water, and/or soil.
  - Of those who reported contact with a substance, 68% had contact with smoke, 53% had contact with dust, 23% had contact with debris, and 6% had contact with other substances.
- 88% surveyed reported smelling odors after the incident.
  - Of those who reported smelling an odor, 54% described the odor as a chemical smell (19% described it as sweet, 15% described it as smoky).

### Health Effects:

- 94% surveyed said they had at least one new or worsening symptom, most commonly affecting their ears, nose, or throat, nervous system, lungs, eyes, skin, or heart.
- The most commonly reported specific symptoms included headache (74%), anxiety (61%), and coughing (53%).
- 78% surveyed said they had at least one new or worsening symptom affecting their mental health, which included tiredness, difficulty sleeping, nervousness, agitation, feeling hopeless, or unexplained fear.

### Unmet Needs & Concerns:

- 45% surveyed said they had unmet needs—most often reported needing water, medical care, supplies, or medicine.



- Local, state, and federal partners continue to work together to meet the needs of the community. This includes providing resources such as bottled water and food vouchers; offering referrals and services for medical and mental health care; providing educational sessions and environmental sampling; also setting up a permanent health clinic for the community to East Palestine to support ongoing medical needs and concerns.
- The ACE survey also asked community members to provide information on any specific concerns they had. The most commonly reported concerns included:
  - The quality and safety of the air, water, and soil and long-term impacts to their community.
  - The long-term health effects for themselves and their children.
  - Their home values depreciating and the cost of relocating.

### **Pets, Livestock & Agriculture:**

The ACE survey for community members also included some questions about the health of pets and livestock. Analyses are ongoing and this information will be shared back with residents when available.

- 314 of those surveyed reported having pets and 11 respondents reported having livestock.
- 53% surveyed who said that they had pets in the 2-mile radius evacuated with their pets.
- 27% surveyed who said they owned livestock in the 2-mile radius evacuated with their livestock.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I STILL HAVE SYMPTOMS?**

- If you feel that you are experiencing ongoing symptoms or have other health concerns related to the incident, call the East Palestine Clinic-- 330-383-6020, or visit—139 North Walnut Street, East Palestine.
  - You can either make an appointment, or walk in during open hours
  - Open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Free for those without insurance coverage
  - Available to any residents with concerns
  - Comprehensive primary care (treatment, prescriptions, lab testing, consultation with specialists, referrals)
  - Staffed by physicians, registered nurses, and mental health specialists
- If you have urgent concerns, call the Poison Control Incident Hotline (Ohio and PA) at 1-877-603-0170 .

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Ohio Department of Health at 1-614-644-6133.
- Call the Family Assistance Center at 1-800-230-7049 for help with lodging, food, clothing, gas, childcare, laundry, pet care.
- Call the Division of Animal Health, Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-614-728-6220 for assistance with animal health.
- [Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery | SAMHSA](#) Text or Call 988
- [East Palestine Train Derailment \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Community Stress Fact Sheet | ATSDR \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Vinyl Chloride | ToxFAQs™ | ATSDR \(cdc.gov\)](#)