

Ohio Train Derailment

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A Train Derailment has occurred in a town near the Ohio and Pennsylvania state border. A derailment is an accident in which a train comes off the track, this is a hazardous situation that could end very badly for anyone or anything along the train's course. This derailment occurred at night in East Palestine, Ohio on February 3rd, 2023. According to AP news "about 50 cars derailed in East Palestine at about 9 p.m. EST Friday as a train was carrying a variety of products from Madison, Illinois, to Conway, Pennsylvania." No injuries or damages were reported, although the post-derailment fire expanded about the length of the cars. This train derailment was seen as a health risk for all in the area as "ten of those cars contained hazardous materials, five of which contained vinyl chloride"(ABC news). Residents in the immediate and nearby area were evacuated because of health risks and were not allowed to return as of Wednesday.



Although the residents were evacuated there was still a concern about the toxic substances lingering in their neighborhoods. These cars derailed in a fiery crash which would cause the chemicals to become a bigger threat. According to usa.today.com "Vinyl chloride was released into the air Monday from five of those cars before crews ignited it to get rid of the highly flammable toxic chemicals in a controlled environment." Vinyl chloride is the gas used to make hard plastic resin in plastic products. Products such as credit cards, furniture, and car parts, and commonly used in PVC plastic piping and material in plumbing. Vinyl chloride increases one's risk of developing cancer and could affect a person's liver, kidney, lung, spleen, nervous system, and blood. Inhalation of this substance at a low level could cause dizziness, nausea,

visual disturbances, respiratory problems, and other health issues. Large plumes of smoke containing vinyl chloride, phosgene, hydrogen chloride, and other gasses were in the air. However, hydrogen chloride fumes could irritate the throat and cause skin problems. These chemicals also spilled into the Ohio River prompting officials to shut down water production in the area and transfer to an alternate source of water supply. This one accident has caused many different problems for a community as a result of toxins being released in the area.

Surprisingly, a reporter got arrested while covering a news conference on this incident. This reporter got arrested "following a live shot on Wednesday after officers told him to be quiet while the governor spoke"(News Nation). Evan Lambert the reporter works for News Nation a cable channel. Evan had another shot to do at the same time as this conference as it was delayed for two hours, so he did his live shot away from

where the governor would be speaking. It is believed that Evan wrapped up his shot as soon as he realized the governor was speaking. According to the New York Times ``local law enforcement officials told Mr. Lambert that he was ‘out of line for talking when the governor was talking.’” Four officers surrounded Mr. Lambert before moving him into the hallway where he was put on his stomach and arrested. This encounter has been recorded and is online. The charges consisting of trespassing and resisting arrest have been dropped, as Ohio protects a free press under its constitution and Mr. Lambert was not trespassing.

Overall, the train derailment in East Palestine Ohio has been devastating. Although at first there was no damage, now there have been several effects or problems caused. The community in East Palestine has been most affected by this accident as their environment has been invaded by toxins. Also, the Greater Cincinnati Water Works shut the water intake from the Ohio River which also consisted of these chemicals. The water has since been reviewed and once deemed safe turned back on. Reporter Evan Lambert was also impacted by this situation as he now has been arrested just for doing his job. The soil, air, plants, environment, and neighborhoods will continue to face the effect of these chemicals.