

Latest Ohio derailment poses no public risk, officials say

March 6 2023



Multiple cars of a Norfolk Southern train lie toppled on one another after derailing at a train crossing with Ohio 41 in Clark County, Ohio, Saturday, March 4, 2023. Credit: Bill Lackey/Springfield-News Sun via AP

Authorities in Ohio say there is no indication of any risk to public health from the derailment of a Norfolk Southern cargo train between Dayton and Columbus, the second derailment of a company train in the state in a month.

Norfolk Southern and Clark County officials say 28 of the southbound train's 212 cars, including four empty tankers, derailed at about 4:45 p.m. Saturday in Springfield Township near a business park and the county fairgrounds. Springfield is about 46 miles (74 km) west of the state capital of Columbus.

As a precaution, residents living within 1,000 feet were asked to shelter in place and responding firefighters deployed the county hazmat team as a precaution, but officials early Sunday said there was "no indication of any injuries or risk to public health at this time."

A crew from Norfolk Southern, the hazmat team and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency "each independently examined the [crash site](#) and verified there was no evidence of spillage at the site," officials said.

Officials confirmed Sunday afternoon that no hazardous materials were involved in the derailment.

Norfolk Southern general manager Kraig Barner said, however, that a couple of other cars on the train heading from Bellevue, Ohio, to Birmingham, Alabama, were carrying liquid propane, and a couple more were carrying ethanol. The rest of the train was made up of mixed freight, such as steel and finished automobiles, he said.



Multiple cars of a Norfolk Southern cargo train lie toppled on one another after derailing at a train crossing with Ohio 41 in Clark County, Ohio, Saturday, March 4, 2023. Credit: Bill Lackey/Springfield-News Sun via AP

"A lot of the cars that were actually derailed were empty boxcars," Barner said.

Officials said two of the four empty tanker cars that derailed had previously carried diesel exhaust fluid and the other two had residual amounts of polyacrylamide water solution, which Barner said is an additive commonly used in [wastewater treatment](#).

County officials say environmental officials have confirmed that the derailment is not near a protected water source, meaning there is no risk

to public water systems or private wells. The shelter-in-place order affected only four or five homes, officials said.

No injuries to the public or to the train's two-person crew were reported, he said. The cause of the derailment is under investigation and the findings will be turned over to the Federal Railroad Administration, Barner said.



A Norfolk Southern cargo train car leans off the tracks after derailing in Clark County, Ohio, at a train crossing with Ohio 41 Saturday, March 4, 2023. Credit: Bill Lackey/Springfield-News Sun via AP



Multiple cars of a Norfolk Southern train lie toppled after derailing at a train crossing with Ohio 41 in Clark County, Ohio, Saturday, March 4, 2023. Credit: Bill Lackey/Springfield-News Sun via AP



Work crews clean up the derailment of a Norfolk Southern cargo train in Clark County, Ohio, Sunday, March 5, 2023. Credit: Bill Lackey/Springfield News-Sun via AP



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Norfolk Southern general manager Kraig Barner answers questions at a press conference regarding Saturday's derailment of a Norfolk Southern cargo train in Clark County, Ohio, Sunday, March 5, 2023. Credit: Bill Lackey/Springfield News-Sun via AP



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Ohio Governor Mike DeWine said late Saturday night that President Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg had called him "to offer help from the federal government."

On Feb. 3, 38 cars of a Norfolk Southern freight train in East Palestine, in northeast Ohio near Pennsylvania, derailed and several of the train's cars carrying [hazardous materials](#) burned.

Though no one was injured, nearby neighborhoods in both states were imperiled. The crash prompted an evacuation of about half the town's

roughly 5,000 residents, an ongoing multigovernmental emergency response and lingering worries among villagers of long-term health impacts.

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