

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:01:06 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Train Derailment Fallout; Safe to Return Home?]

ROBIN ROBERTS: Safe to return home? Growing questions about the train derailment in Ohio that unleashed toxic chemicals in the area. Plus, how Erin Brockovich is stepping in.

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7:13:28 a.m.

2 minutes and 6 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New This Morning; Train Derailment Fallout; Residents Demand Answers as List of Toxic Chemicals on Board Grows]

ROBERTS: Now to the fallout from the train derailment in Ohio. Residents are demanding answers as they are being told it is safe to return to their homes. Alex Presha is in Ohio with more. And, Alex, we hear that people and animals are feeling the effects. Good morning.

ALEX PRESHA: Good morning, Robin. Yes, we've heard that from residents in East Palestine. It's why we have moved two towns west of there. But this morning, Robin, there are more questions than answers. This morning, as residents are told it's safe to return home, unanswered questions remain about potential lingering contaminants from the massive fire and hazardous materials.

OHIO DEPT OF HEALTH DIRECTOR BRUCE VANDERHOFF: We are recommending that people in the community consider using bottled water.

PRESHA: This surveillance video obtained by ABC News shows a train about 20 miles outside of East Palestine less than an hour before that 50-car derailment. The NTSB believes those sparks are from what appears to be a wheel bearing in the final stage of overheat failure. Norfolk Southern says with the EPA, it has completed more than 115 in-home air tests and that none have detected any of the substances related to the incident. It says it's conducted more than 400 tests total. Yet officials are reporting that 3,500 fish across 12 different species have died in Ohio's waterways and some residents report their cats including cats and chickens have died. In East Palestine these gas detectors dot the town. This one hanging from a stop sign across from Ashley McCollum's house.

ASHLEY MCCOLLUM [on 02/03/23]: What caused it?

NEIGHBOR: Train derailed.

MCCOLLUM: I don't know if we'll ever have that sense of feeling safe.

PRESHA: And now, in spite of the clean air reports, she moved them to different schools after they complained of headaches and pains following the derailment. Now, consumer advocate Erin Brockovich, who fought for clean groundwater in her California town, has stepped in to help.

ERIN BROCKOVICH: They've been given misinformation. They don't trust the information that's coming in and they were scared.

PRESHA: The governor here says he understands the town's anger. There's a town hall scheduled for tonight. George, it's expected to be spirited.

GEORGE STPEHANOPOULOS: I'm sure it will be. Okay, Alex, thanks very much.