

NBC's *Today*

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7:01:08 a.m. [TEASE]

18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Growing Outrage]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Growing outrage. Concerns mounting after that fiery train derailment in Ohio. Nearly two weeks later, do harmful chemicals remain in the air, ground, and water?

CAHTEY REESE: Don't tell me it's safe. Something's going on if the fish are floating in the creek.

GUTHRIE: This morning, the message from officials to anxious residents.

(...)

7:10:02 a.m.

2 minutes and 16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Outrage Grows Over Train Derailment]

CRAIG MELVIN: Meanwhile, there are some new concerns this morning over that massive train derailment and chemical fire in eastern Ohio. Nearly two weeks later, residents are sounding the alarm about their health and safety. NBC's Ron Allen is here with details on this one. Ron, good morning to you.

RON ALLEN: Good morning, Craig. State officials insist they're carefully monitoring and testing the environment since the derailment. But at the same time, there have been reports of residents complaining of health problems like sore throats and headaches. Some even complaining that pets, farm animals, and wildlife have died because of potential contamination. It's been 12 days since the fiery derailment of a train carrying hazardous chemicals through East Palestine, Ohio, and the planned burn to prevent a potentially catastrophic explosion. Residents worry about what's still in the air, soil and water of their rural community.

REESE: Don't tell me it's safe. Something's going on if the fish are floating in the creek.

ALLEN: Ohio officials confirming 3,500 fish died in local waters in the days after the derailment. But insists extensive testing show there's no threat to other wildlife or humans. They say there's only anecdotal stories of people getting sick and no confirmed connection to the hazardous materials aboard the train.

JAMI COZZA: I definitely have a right to know what was on that train.

ALLEN: Still for the first time state officials suggested residents returning to the evacuation zone

use bottled water, especially if they have a private well while testing continues. The governor was asked if he would return home if he lived near the crash site.

GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE (R-OH): I think that I would be drinking the bottle water.
[SCREEN WIPE] I would be alert and concerned. But I would probably be back in my house.

ALLEN: An answer leaving some residents with mixed emotions.

BEN RATTNER: I feel about 80 percent safe.

ALLEN: Ben Rattner and his family live half a mile from the crash site. His kids are back in school after being out for a week. [TO RATTNER] It sounds like you're still worried?

RATTNER: I think more so worried for the long term.

ALLEN: Residents have filed multiple class action lawsuits seeking damages from the rail operator, Norfolk Southern, including free health monitoring and screening. The company said it's paid more than a million dollars in assistance already and that it's committed to cleaning up any contamination.

MELVIN: Alright, we'll keep an eye on it. Thank you, Ron.