

Public Health Research and Surveillance Priorities from the East Palestine Train Derailment: A Workshop

Agenda

Day 1 – Monday, November 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

Day 2 – Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

Background:

To advance understanding and facilitate the recovery and wellbeing of those impacted, a planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine was tasked with organizing and convening a two-day virtual public workshop to explore potential health research and surveillance priorities arising from the train derailment and material hazards spill that occurred in East Palestine, Ohio on February 3, 2023. This workshop brings together participants and subject matter experts from government, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, and affected communities to discuss short and long-term human health impacts from the train derailment incident and similar incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

Objectives:

The workshop focuses primarily on research questions of specific concern to affected and potentially affected communities in East Palestine and surrounding areas. Specific topics that may be addressed in this workshop include available information, knowledge gaps, and potential research needs and priorities within the following domains:

- Exposures associated with the train derailment;
- Physical, mental, social, and behavioral health impacts;
- Acute and long-term health effects of exposure, including formation of new exposures associated with burning rail cars, as well as complex, mixed exposures and cumulative risks;
- Surveillance regarding health risks, including, for example, specific health endpoints, populations to be followed, and duration of surveillance; and
- Lessons learned from prior disasters that can inform health care measures and public health interventions in the current context.

Workshop Overview

Day 1 aims to review the East Palestine train derailment incident; hear from community members and healthcare providers about their experiences; identify what is known or unknown about the relevant hazards and exposures and how they relate to human and environmental health; and discuss risk characterization, data integration, and risk communication.

Day 2 aims to identify lessons learned from similar incidents and to envision a long-term research agenda to address human and environmental health needs related to the East Palestine train derailment.

DAY 1 - Monday, November 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

SESSION I WELCOME AND OPENING

9:00 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks

Kristen Malecki, *Planning Committee Chair*
Professor and Division Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
University of Illinois – Chicago

Richard Woychik
Director
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
National Toxicology Program (NTP)

SESSION II IMPACT OF THE EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT

9:15 AM Community Reflections

This panel aims to ground the workshop on the experiences and questions that community stakeholders had as the event unfolded and continue to have today. Workshop participants will hear from impacted community members and learn about their preferences for future research efforts related to their health and surrounding environment.

Harold ‘Fritz’ Nelson, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*
Pastor
First United Presbyterian Church of East Palestine

Jess Conard
Appalachia Director
Beyond Plastics

Christa Graves
Resident
Columbiana County

Zsuzsa Gyenes
Resident
Columbiana County

Bill Sutherin
Director
United Methodist Committee on Relief

10:15 AM Provider Reflections

This panel will ground the workshop on the experiences and questions that arose as the events unfolded, shortly after and now as the acute hazards are gone and questions remain. Participants will hear from frontline providers, responders, and public health

workers; learn about their preferences for future research efforts related to the healthcare of impacted community members; and identify opportunities for improving healthcare delivery to communities exposed to potentially harmful compounds.

Roberta Lavin, Moderator and Planning Committee Member
Professor and Deputy Director
Center for Health Equity and Preparedness
University of New Mexico College of Nursing

Kristen Barefield
Family Therapist
Metta Wellness

George Garrow
Chief Executive Officer
Primary Health Network

Gretchen Nickell
Chief Medical Officer
East Liverpool City Hospital

Marcy Patton
Executive Director
Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

SESSION III HAZARDS, EXPOSURES, AND RISKS

11:15 AM

Environmental Monitoring and Exposure Science

This panel aims to recognize relevant data collection efforts including exposure monitoring (e.g., air, water, soil) and examine relevant measures and methodology including their implementation in East Palestine and past and future disasters.

Andrew Whelton, Moderator and Planning Committee Member
Professor of Civil Engineering
and Environmental and Ecological Engineering
Purdue University

Mark Durno
Homeland Security Advisor
U.S. EPA Region 5

Albert Presto
Research Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Carnegie Mellon University

12:45 PM

Break

1:15 PM

Human Health Impacts

This panel will recognize relevant data collection efforts related to human health research and discuss what is known and unknown about possible health effects (physical and mental) and who is sensitive or susceptible.

Erin Haynes, Moderator and Planning Committee Member
Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health
University of Kentucky

Motria Caudill
Regional Director
ATSDR Region 5 Office

Nicholas Newman
Director, Environmental Health and Lead Clinic
Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Lauryn Spearing
Assistant Professor in Civil, Materials, and Environmental Engineering
University of Illinois – Chicago

SESSION IV

RISK CHARACTERIZATION AND COMMUNICATION

2:45 PM

This panel will review disaster risk characterization and what it can or cannot accomplish and identify challenges and opportunities for communicating risk in the context of similar disasters.

Keeve Nachman, Moderator and Planning Committee Member
Associate Professor
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Weihshueh A. Chiu
Professor, Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology
School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University

Sue Fenton
Director, Center for Human Health and the Environment
North Carolina State University

Wesley Vins
Health Commissioner
Columbiana County General Health District

Antony Williams
Scientist, Center of Computational Toxicology and Exposure
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

SESSION V

4:15 PM

Chair's Reflection and Preview of Workshop 2

End DAY 1

DAY 2 - Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

SESSION VI

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

9:00 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks from the Chair

Kristen Malecki, *Planning Committee Chair*

Professor and Division Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
University of Illinois – Chicago

SESSION VII

LESSONS FROM PAST DISASTERS

9:15AM

This panel will highlight research and mitigation activities from past environmental disasters and identify lessons learned.

Michele Marcus, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Professor, Epidemiology, Environmental Health and Pediatrics
Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

Mona Hanna-Attisha

Associate Dean for Public Health
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

Jennifer Horney

Founding Director and Professor, Epidemiology Program
University of Delaware

Melanie Pearson

Associate Professor of Environmental Health
Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

SESSION VIII

ADDRESSING POTENTIAL LONG-TERM COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACTS

10:45 AM

This panel will identify key components for a community-centered, long-term health research and surveillance agenda related to the East Palestine train derailment and other disasters and discuss (e.g., biomedical and clinical components).

Maureen Lichtveld, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*
Dean
University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health

Manish Arora
Professor and Vice Chairman, Environmental Medicine and Public Health
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Juliane Beier
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Linda Birnbaum
Adjunct Professor, Department of Environment Sciences and Engineering
University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

Judy Westrick
Director, Lumigen Instrument Center
Wayne State University

12:15 PM

BREAK

SESSION IX

CENTERING THE COMMUNITY WHEN CONTEMPLATING RESEARCH AFTER
DISASTER

12:45 PM

This panel will identify key components for monitoring long-term research and surveillance related to the East Palestine train derailment and other similar disasters (e.g., applied research components).

Thomas Burke, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*
Professor Emeritus
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Patrick Breysse
Professor Emeritus
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Joan Casey
Assistant Professor, Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences
University of Washington

Erika Kinhead
Certified School Nurse, New Brighton Area School District
President, Beaver County School Nurse Association

Philip Landrigan
Director, Program in Global Public Health and the Common Good
Boston College

SESSION X CLOSING REMARKS

2:15 PM

Closing Remarks

Kristen Malecki, *Planning Committee Chair*
Professor and Division Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
University of Illinois – Chicago

Aubrey Miller
Deputy Director, Scientific Coordination
National Institute of Environmental Health Services

3:00 PM

End Workshop
