

March 30, 2023, 3 p.m. Update

EPA is on site monitoring the air for particulate matter and volatile organic compounds. EPA is providing oversight and independent data collection to BNSF's ongoing air monitoring. EPA has not found any PM levels of concern in the community and so far, low levels below health concerns of VOCs have been detected only immediately downwind of the cars in a non-populated area. At 11 a.m., local public safety officials lifted the evacuation for the community based on EPA and BNSF's preliminary air monitoring data. Two streets are blocked off for response crews at the work zone. Air monitoring will continue overnight. Data will be shared on the website once it's available.

Four cars containing denatured ethanol – ethanol containing gasoline to be used as a fuel additive – continue to burn and crews continue to assess the impact to the three remaining denatured ethanol cars.

EPA helped establish a unified command with local, state and federal responding agencies.

March 30, 2023, 9 a.m. Update

On March 30, at 1 a.m., a BNSF train derailed in Raymond, Minnesota. Four cars containing ethanol, a highly flammable product, ruptured, caught fire and continue to burn. Four additional cars containing ethanol may also release. The local fire department is currently the lead for the response and ordered a mandatory evacuation of the city. The evacuation remains in place.

EPA arrived on scene at 6:30 a.m. to provide air monitoring at and around the site and throughout the community. EPA is monitoring for particulate matter, PM 10 and 2.5, resulting from the smoke and volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, downwind and around the community.

EPA's number one priority is – and will always be – the health and safety of communities. EPA will continue to coordinate with local, state and federal agencies to ensure the safety of residents and first responders in and around Raymond.