

Stillwater Train Derailment Fact Sheet

June 28, 2023



Site Description

- On June 24, 2023, 17 rail cars were derailed.
 - 10 rail cars entered the Yellowstone River.
 - 6 asphalt liquified petroleum
 - 3 molten sulfur
 - 1 scrap metal
 - 7 rail cars did not enter the river.
 - 2 sodium hydrosulfide
 - 5 asphalt
- Unified Command includes Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency Services, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Montana Rail Link.



Current Status

- Sodium hydrosulfide car contents were loaded to stable rail cars and moved to a safe location.
- Three asphalt rail cars have been removed from the river and seven cars remain.
 - temporary and localized sheen was observed the evening after the first rail car was removed. The sheen was gone by the next morning. No sheen was observed after the second two cars were removed.
- The west section of the bridge has been removed and placed on the west riverbank to allow access to remaining cars in the river.
 - Western section of rail was also removed and moved away to grant better access
- Construction crews are building a stable path (causeway) to allow heavy equipment to travel to river edge and aid in car removal.
- Equipment and personnel have been brought to site including a large crane, haul trucks, construction crews, environmental contractors and water safety crews.



Causeway construction 6/26/23

Environmental Impacts

- Ongoing releases of asphalt liquified petroleum and molten sulfur from damaged rail cars in the river.
- Water quality testing results show no detectable levels of petroleum hydrocarbons and sulfur levels are comparable to upstream background levels.
- Public Water Supplies are not in danger with the current situation. If detects in the river were positive or become positive, they are ready to take action.
- Private drinking water wells are not impacted by the derailment.
- There have been no reports of impacted wildlife, however as a precaution the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) has been activated, and trained personnel are on-scene to provide veterinary care if needed.
- Report observed asphalt at: rpderailment@mtrail.com.

What is asphalt material?

Asphalt Material is a fragment or lumps of oil weathered to a semi-solid or solid consistency, feel sticky, and are difficult to remove from contaminated surfaces. They are formed through the combining of viscous hydrocarbons with debris that is present in the water column. They range in size from a pinhead to approximately 30 centimeters in diameter.

Is Asphalt Material Harmful to You?

Asphalt material is a nuisance to humans. Normally there are no or minimal health concerns associated with asphalt material. However, you should remove the asphalt as soon as practicable from your skin. As with some heavy oils, prolonged skin contact may cause an allergic reaction. Such a reaction is usually manifested as a skin rash (dermatitis) which is local in most cases. If you are concerned about exposure to asphalt material and the occurrence of any rash, a doctor should be consulted.

How Do You Remove Asphalt From Your Skin?

Rinse the affected area with fresh water, scrape off the excess asphalt material from your skin and apply a grease removing agent (e.g., pastes found in auto stores) or baby oil/mineral oil. Rinse again with fresh water. In cases where fresh water or a removing agent is not available the bulk of the asphalt may be removed by rubbing the area with sand or dirt. DO NOT use gasoline, solvents, or other materials that may be worse to the skin than the existing asphalt.