

Train cars derail; one leaks caustic chemical into stream

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CROSBY, Pa. (AP) — At least a dozen boxcars and tankers from a Norfolk-Southern train derailed Friday morning, sending about 16,000 gallons of a caustic chemical spilling into a high-quality trout stream, officials said.

No injuries were reported, but 50 people around Norwich Township were temporarily evacuated because of fears that chlorine gas might leak from one of the tankers, officials said. The tanker was not breached, and crews were working later to either right or empty it.

People were warned to keep clear because of the spill of sodium hydroxide, also known as caustic soda or lye, which can cause severe burns.

"We're cautioning people to stay away from the stream, to keep children, pets and animals away from the stream," said Bruce Manning, deputy director of McKean County Emergency Management Agency.

Crews were building dams in Portage Run to contain the chemical. Waterways Conservation officers verified a fish kill, but officials could not say how many fish were killed.

"Besides the tankers, the train also pulled boxcars which were loaded with lumber, paper products and what appeared to be large blocks of aluminum, and those contents were scattered around the area," said Bill Gallup of the Norwich Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

Rudy Husband, a spokesman for Norfolk-Southern Railroad, said the train was traveling from Binghamton, N.Y., to Harrisburg when it derailed.

Information from: The Bradford Era, <http://www.bradfordera.com>

This Associated Press release appeared in many printed and on-line news sources including:

Silive.com, NEPA news, and WCAX-TV news