

# Ohio East Palestine Residents' Shock Illnesses After Derailment. "My normal voice is low. It's hard to breathe. My chest hurts"

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*Wade Lovett's been having trouble breathing since the Feb. 3 Norfolk South train derailment and toxic explosion here. In fact, his voice sounds as if he's been inhaling helium.*

"Doctors say I definitely have the chemicals in me but there's no one in town who can run the toxicological tests to find out which ones they are," Lovett, 40, an auto detailer, said in an extremely high-pitched voice. "My voice sounds like Mickey Mouse. My normal voice is low. It's hard to breathe, especially at night. My chest hurts so much at night I feel like I'm drowning. I cough up phlegm a lot. I lost my job because the doctor won't release me to go to work."

Despite his health woes, Lovett and his fiancée, Tawnya Irwin, 45, spent last Thursday delivering bottled water to locals. They picked up new cases outside a home on East Clark Street which has become the heart of East Palestine's homegrown campaign to fight back against the forces that upended the lives of roughly 4,700 residents and their animals.

Locals are frustrated and furious over what they say has been a lack of real information and help from both local officials and the Biden Administration. Last week, East Palestine [Mayor Trent Conaway ripped President Biden](#) for [heading to Ukraine for a surprise visit](#) instead of the scene of the toxic train derailment, calling it "the biggest slap in the face."

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