

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

Washington, DC 20594



RRD24FR009 - EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

March 2, 2024

A. ACCIDENT

Location: Easton, Pennsylvania
Date: March 2, 2024
Time: 7:11 am eastern daylight time
Train 1: Eastbound NS Intermodal Train 24XH101
Train 2: Eastbound NS Intermodal Train 268H439
Train 3: Westbound NS Mixed Freight Train 19GH501

B. ACCIDENT SUMMARY GROUP

IIC	R. Payan NTSB - RPH Washington, DC
Party Coordinator	Josh Quillen Federal Railroad Administration Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Party Coordinator	Christopher N. Hand Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen Front Royal, Virginia
Party Coordinator	Randall Hunt NS Railway Atlanta, Georgia
Party Coordinator	Ronald E. Sabol Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers Trenton, New Jersey
Party Coordinator	GW Scott Brown Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen Easton, Pennsylvania

C. SYNOPSIS

On March 2, 2024, about 7:11 a.m. local time, eastbound Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) intermodal train 268H429 collided with stopped NS intermodal train 24XH101 on the same track and derailed railcars that were subsequently struck by westbound NS mixed freight train 19GH501 on the Allentown Road Subdivision near

Easton, Pennsylvania.¹ As a result of the first collision, train 268H429 derailed three railcars that fouled the adjacent main track 1.² Less than a minute later, a second collision occurred when train 19GH501 struck the derailed equipment while traveling westbound on main track 1. As a result of the second collision, train 19GH501 derailed six railcars and two locomotives. Three of these derailed railcars were placarded as hazardous materials tank cars: one containing ethanol residue and two containing butane residue.³ The tank cars did not breach or release hazardous materials. The two derailed locomotives partially submerged in the Lehigh River and discharged locomotive diesel fuel into the water. Four crewmembers were transported to a local hospital, treated for minor injuries, and released. NS estimated damages to equipment and track to be about \$2.5 million. At the time of the collisions, visibility conditions were daylight and overcast; the weather was 35°F with light rain.

¹ (a) All times in this report are local times. (b) An *intermodal train* carries shipping containers used in intermodal freight transportation. (c) A *mixed freight train* includes several types of railcars and commodities.

² *Fouling a track* means the placement of an individual or equipment in such proximity to a track that the individual or equipment could be struck by a moving train or on-track equipment.

³ The three hazardous materials tank cars were offered for shipment as having last contained UN1170, Ethanol Solutions, a Class 3 flammable liquid in packing group II, and UN1075, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, a Division 2.1 flammable gas, as specified in Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 172.