



February Safety Newsletter



On February 3, 2023, a train derailed near the small town of East Palestine, Ohio. On board were several tons of refrigerated vinyl chloride, the lead chemical in PVC production.

Vinyl chloride has a boiling point of -13°C , turning it into a vapor upon exposure with air. Vinyl chloride is a highly flammable gas, which when paired with a fiery accident, can create toxic fumes containing **carbon monoxide**, **hydrogen chloride**, and **phosgene**. Safe to say these emissions are fume hood worthy.

Fearing an explosion, local officials diverted the hazardous materials into a trench to be burned off. Residents were advised to evacuate the area until inspection by the Environmental Protection Agency.



Even though a catastrophic event like this is unlikely to happen in a laboratory setting, it is important to ensure we mitigate any potential accidents that can threaten our well-being and of others.

In the event of any situations that made you feel unsafe, please share with others via this form: [Near Miss/Accident Reporting](#)

We are looking for fresh faces to join the Chemical Engineering Student Safety Team! Please message us at UHChESST@gmail.com if you are interested.

Pros: Refreshments at meeting, resume builder (industry loves safety), and working with EHSA to ensure safe working conditions

Cons: None!

