



CITY OF DUNNELLO
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March 12, 2026 Updates

In the early hours of Sunday, February 1, 2026, Marion County Fire Rescue and the Marion County Division of Emergency Management were dispatched to the area of East McKinney Avenue and North Williams Street in Dunnellon, Florida, more specifically, Marion County Parcel ID 33638-000-02, owned by CSX Transportation, in response to a fire involving a large stockpile of chemically treated railroad ties being stored on the property.

“What We Know”

1. **Continuing On-site and Off-site Air and Soil Sampling:** To date, all post excavation test results have returned below soil cleanup target levels (SCTL).
2. **Surface Water Sampling:** Round two of three surface water samplings were taken on Wednesday, February 18th. All results have returned under surface water cleanup target levels (SWCTL).
3. **On Thursday, March 12th, continue to move rail ties from east to west for efficient loading.**
4. **On Wednesday, March 11th, continue to move rail ties from east to west for efficient loading.**
5. **On Tuesday, March 10th, continue to move rail ties from east to west for efficient loading.**
6. **On Monday, March 9th, 9 rail cars loaded with rail ties departed the site. Continue moving ties from east to west for efficient loading.**
7. **On Sunday, March 8th, no work on site**
8. **On Saturday, March 7th, 9 rail cars loaded with rail ties.**
9. **On Friday, March 6th, 9 empty rail cars dropped off at site. Continue grading excavation backfill. Continue moving ties from east to west for efficient loading.**

10. **On Thursday, March 5th, backfill is 100% complete.**
11. **On Wednesday, March 4th, as of 4:30 p.m., 24 trucks unloaded backfill at the excavation site. The western half is backfilled short of 10 feet.**
12. **On Tuesday, March 3rd, as of 4:30 p.m., 64 trucks unloaded backfill at the excavation site. The western half is backfilled short of 150 feet. The third round of surface water samples were taken and sent out for testing.**
13. **On Monday, March 2nd, as of 4:00 p.m., 63 trucks unloaded backfill at the excavation site. The eastern half is completely backfilled. 8 rail cars loaded with rail ties departed.**
14. **On Sunday, March 1st, no work was performed at the site.**
15. **On Saturday, February 28th, all 8 rail cars were loaded with rail ties.**
16. **On Friday, February 27th, 56 trucks unloaded backfill at the excavation site. 800 feet of 1250 has been backfilled. 8 empty rail cars arrived.**
17. **On Thursday, February 26th, 70 trucks unloaded backfill at the excavation site. 700 feet of 1250 has been backfilled. 18 rail cars full of ties have departed. Six property owners requested soil sampling. All 6 private property samples collected are below soil cleanup target levels (SCTL).**
18. **On Wednesday, February 25th, 1 truck loaded with debris moved off site. 82 trucks unloaded backfill at the excavation site. 18 rail cars have been loaded.**
19. **On Tuesday, February 24th, 3 trucks loaded with excavation material moved off site. 30 trucks unloaded backfill at the excavation site. 18 empty rail cars arrived on site.**
20. **On Monday, February 23rd, 16 trucks loaded with excavation material moved off site. 9 loaded rail cars departed. One private property soil sample was taken.**
21. **On Sunday, February 22nd, no work at site.**
22. **On Saturday, February 21st, completed loading 9 rail cars.**

23. **On Friday, February 20th, 30 trucks loaded with excavation material moved off site. Continued loading 9 rail cars. Four private property soil samples were taken. Continued site excavation.**
24. **On Thursday, February 19th, 25 trucks loaded with excavation material moved off site. 9 empty rail cars arrived on site and are currently being loaded.**
25. **On Wednesday, February 18th, site excavation continues. 33 rail cars loaded with rail ties departed today. 7 empty rail cars are due to arrive tomorrow, 2/19.**
26. **On Tuesday, February 17th, 25 trucks loaded with excavation material moved off site. 6 rail cars have been loaded. A total of 30 loaded rail cars will depart tomorrow, 2/18. 6 more empty rail cars will arrive tomorrow, 2/18.**
27. **On Monday, February 16th, 47 trucks loaded with excavation material moved off site. 6 empty rail cars have arrived on-site being actively loaded with rail ties.**
28. **On Sunday, February 15th, completed loading of empty rail cars.**
29. **On Saturday, February 14th, continued to load empty rail cars. 51 truckloads of excavation material were removed from the site.**
30. **On Friday, February 13th, 21 loaded rail cars left with rail ties. 24 empty rail cars were dropped off. 58 truckloads of excavation material were removed from the site. One private property soil sample was taken.**

31. Private Well Water Testing

For information regarding private well water testing, please contact the Florida Department of Health: [FDOH Private Well Water Testing](#)

February 10, 2026: FDOH will be conducting free testing of 13 private wells in the area. FDOH has made contact with several of the property owners and sent letters to others.

32. Private Property Soil Sampling

CSX Transportation has agreed to conduct soil testing at no cost to property owners located within a 500-foot radius of the fire site. 10 notices were hand-delivered on Tuesday, February 17th to eligible properties and notices were mailed to all eligible property owners.

33. Environmental impacts: February 10, 2026: FDEP has approved CSX's Work Plan on February 9th for Source Removal and Surface Water Sampling. The Work Plan can be found here: [Surface Water Sampling Work Plan Dunnellon Tie Fire](#) CSX has begun excavating the site and taking soil samples. A decontamination site has been established to ensure controlled containment of hazardous substances. The work is being monitored by FDEP.

34. Security: February 10, 2026: CSX in coordination with a contracted private security firm will provide on-site security 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, until all the rail ties have been removed.

35. Contact Information:

- For questions related to environmental conditions, residents may call the CSX community hotline at 1-888-479-6583.
- For questions regarding claims or property damage, residents should contact Track Line Rail at 312-848-1812.

The magnitude of this incident requires coordinated efforts among local governments, state agencies, CSX, and Track Line Rail. The city is committed to informing the public of updates as they are made available. These updates will be communicated via the city's website and Facebook Page.

Inquiries should be directed to the City Clerk, Mandy Odom, at modom@dunnellon.org. **Please understand that the city staff may not be able to answer specific questions until further information is made available from other agencies or parties involved.**