

Train carrying jet fuel derails

'red alert' called off

POSTMEDIA NEWS; WITH FILES FROM THE MONTREAL GAZETTE MARCH 28, 2011

Ontario officials called off the "red alert" on Sunday evening after evacuating about 20 homes within a 1.6-kilometre radius just east of Port Hope after the derailment of a CN train carrying jet fuel.

Peter Thivierge of Port Hope police said no one was reported injured after the derailment on a CN line. Police were notified around 12: 20 p.m.

According to Jim Feeny of CN as many as 20 cars were derailed on the 116-car train.

"Some of those cars contain dangerous commodities, (jet) fuel and propane," he said. "Preliminary indications are that there was one car on fire and this was later extinguished."

Emergency Management Ontario issued a red alert following the incident, warning residents to "immediately leave the area" and "quickly select basic clothing, medication, toiletry supplies and other essentials for several days absence."

They issued a news release later on Sunday saying that the "immediate threat as subsided."

"The evacuation area has been reduced from 1.6 km to 800 metres." Parts of Highway 2 remain closed to traffic, the release said. "The public is advised to stay away from the area while the cleanup continues."

The derailment forced the closure of some of the most heavily travelled rail lines in the country, which run between southern Ontario and southern Quebec.

"Via Rail Canada will not be able to operate its normal passenger train service on the Toronto-Montreal and Toronto-Ottawa routes, in both directions, until the rail line is reopened," Via said in a statement, adding it was providing bus service as an alternative.

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