

Lynchburg, Virginia Train Derailment Sparks Fire, Fills Air With Plumes Of Black Smoke

The Huffington Post

Posted: 04/30/2014 2:57 pm EDT Updated: 04/30/2014 5:59 pm EDT

A CSX train derailed near downtown Lynchburg, Virginia around 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, prompting evacuations and [calls to avoid part of the city](#) as flames and a plume of black smoke rose into the air. There are [no immediate reports of injuries](#). The [City Of Lynchburg announced](#) that the train was carrying crude oil and three or four of its 13 to 14 cars were breached.

"There is [some spillage in the river of crude oil](#)," Lynchburg city spokeswoman LuAnn Hunt told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Richmond primarily draws its water from the James River, downstream from Lynchburg. Another official said the city is making plans to tap an "alternative water supply."

The train's tankers may be from a class of rail cars deemed an "unacceptable public risk" by a member of the National Transportation Safety Board in February. These [black, pill-shaped cars, known as DOT-111s](#), have been involved in recent notable oil train derailments in North Dakota and Quebec.

"We are very clear that [this issue needs to be acted on very quickly](#)," National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Deborah Hersman told reporters last week. The Transportation Department is currently working on stricter standards for rail tank cars used to transport hazardous materials. "They aren't moving fast enough," Hersman said.