

## The Latest on the Train Crash in Casselton

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### WEDNESDAY UPDATE

New information on Monday's train derailment in Casselton, North Dakota. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) says it appears the derailment happened at switching point between two tracks.

Investigators say the grain train involved was going about 28 miles per hour when it jumped the tracks and the oil train was traveling at an estimated 42 miles per hour when it collided with the derailed grain cars sparking a massive fire.

The NTSB says they have not found any signal or track problems. Investigators did find a broken axle, but they are still unsure where it came from.

"a lot needs to continue to happen, interviews with the crews will occur, tomorrow we think, and we will continue to go through shipping documents," says Robert Sumwalt of the NTSB.

Meanwhile, the fire at the derailment scene is now completely put out and crews are busy rebuilding the tracks. All the cars involved have been moved from the crash site and officials say the tracks should be reopened by Thursday morning.

### ORIGINAL STORY

The information is coming out in bits and pieces as to what happened in Casselton, North Dakota, and the train derailment that led to a horrific crash on Monday. A train carrying grain derailed just west of Casselton at about 2:00 in the afternoon and blocked the tracks going east.

Shortly after that, another BNSF train carrying crude oil slammed into it causing explosions that lasted for hours. Valley News team's Eric Crest took to the sky to check out the aftermath about an hour after the wreck to bring you a view you'll only see on Valley News Live.

The sights and sounds from a derailment of a 20 train cars carrying crude oil caused quite the commotion in Casselton. Even from 5,000 feet above. The good news is no one was hurt. The bad news, it has displaced many from their homes and businesses in the town of 2,400.

"We're very grateful that no one has been injured or hurt in this incident and are very sorry for the big inconvenience it's caused the people and community of Casselton," says BNSF spokesperson Amy McBeth.

While the major concern 24 hours ago was the toxic smoke seeping into neighborhoods. On Tuesday morning, this time from three thousand feet up thanks to flying regulations being lifted, the new concern is figuring out what went wrong.

"Our purpose for being here is to find out what happened and then make recommendations to keep tragedies like this from happening again. That's why we're here," says Robert Sumwalt of the National Transportation Safety Board who showed up to Fargo Tuesday morning.

Federal investigators are starting the process of figuring out what happened. Picking up the bits and pieces that are salvageable. They'll be checking out the track conditions, train recorders and interviewing the conductors.

"That's what we're here to do is collect factual information. We will not be doing any analytics while we're here. And we will never do any speculation," says Sumwalt.

The investigation should take just over a week but the cause of the wreck may not be determined for more than a year. Meanwhile in Casselton, the air has been tested and has been determined is safe to breathe and residents have been told as of 3 o'clock that they can return back home.

"Obviously we're very excited about the numbers they are seeing compared to yesterday and last night," says Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney who's referencing the testing that determined the air was clearing up.

"I'd tell ya I'd be happy if my neighborhood's air quality was as good as we've gotten this morning," adds Dr. Alan C. Nye an Toxicology and Environmental Health Specialist.

And even three thousand feet up in the air, as bad as the carnage looks below, a lot of folks in Casselton are counting their blessings.

"If you look, if that would have happened a half mile into town. We would be looking at a very different discussion here today. So a lot of things went right," says Sheriff Laney.

The National Transportation Safety Board is leading the investigation. They also contacted Valley News Live Tuesday to get their hands on our aerial video for a better insight.