

Canadian National crews respond to derailment outside New Augusta

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A Canadian National Railway train carrying hazardous materials derailed this morning outside New Augusta.

Canadian National Railway Spokesman Patrick Waldron said the train was traveling from Jackson to Mobile, Ala., at the time of its derailment around 9 a.m.

“Our initial indications are that 18 cars are involved in the derailment,” he said. “There were more cars on the train. Several of the cars are carrying hazardous materials including fuel oil, and one is containing methanol. There are no reports of injuries. There are reports of fuel oil leaking from at least one of the cars.”

Waldron said Canadian National has been quick to send crews to the scene of the accident.

“We’re in an emergency response mode,” he said. “(Canadian National) emergency response and environmental crews are responding to assess the scene and implement a coordinated and comprehensive response. ... Crews are arriving now and more are on the way.”

Waldron said no fires have been reported from the scene.

The derailment is on the outskirts of New Augusta, west of Mississippi 29.

Mississippi Highway Patrol said U.S. 98 from New Augusta to U.S. 49 is closed to through traffic until further notice.

Motorists should find an alternate route.

The American Red Cross South Mississippi Chapter has opened a shelter at the New Augusta Community Center for Perry County residents who have been affected by the derailment.

The center is at 298 Willow St. in New Augusta.