

Train derails east of Slave Lake

Officials say no reports of spills or injuries

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Officials with the CN are investigating after four engines and 21 train cars went off the tracks near Slave Lake Tuesday afternoon.

The CN train derailed at 4:15 p.m. in the Mitsue Industrial area about 10 kilometres east of Slave Lake.

Transportation Safety Board Spokesman Chris Krepski said three of the derailed cars were carrying dangerous chemicals.

"The first two cars were carrying sodium chloride, the third car was carrying sulphuric acid," he said.

Krepski said none of the derailed cars are leaking.

'Everybody feels like one is too often'

The Slave Lake Fire Department sent four crews, including a dangerous goods team, and more than a dozen firefighters to the scene around 5 p.m.

"Quite a few cars are off slightly, there's some that are right off the tracks— seven or eight," said Chief Jamie Coutts.

"There was a sulphuric acid car. We had them assess that," he said of the dangerous goods crew. "And now they're just working with the CN staff, to look at the engines and make sure that any anti-freeze or diesel or anything that spilled is being caught and taken care of."

Coutts confirmed the derailed cars are secure and said no injuries were reported

Tuesday's derailment comes just four months after nine cars carrying pulp derailed near downtown Slave Lake along the CN rail line just off Main Street, about one block from the town office.

In November 2013, town residents met with CN officials to discuss concerns about the line's safety in the wake of previous derailments in Gainford and Peers, Alta.

"Everybody feels like one is too often," Coutts said when asked how the community was responding.

The cause of the derailment is not yet known.