

Railcar toting sulfuric acid topples on Clarabelle Road

By [Jim Moodie](#), The Sudbury Star
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A rail tanker carrying sulfuric acid flipped off the tracks on Vale property near the Clarabelle Road, although none of the contents of the car were released.

The mishap occurred just before 3 a.m. Friday, when "one car on an eastbound CN freight train derailed at slow speed on a rail spur," said Lindsay Fedchyshyn, regional manager of public affairs with CN. "There were no leaks or exposures."

CN operations crews responded to the incident, the cause of which remains under investigation, said the CN spokesperson.

Angie Robson, Vale manager of corporate affairs, confirmed the derailment happened on property owned by the mine and the car was carrying sulfuric acid, but referred all other questions to CN.

Vale does a fairly brisk trade in sulfuric acid, which is coveted by the fertilizer and pulp-and-paper industries, among other sectors.

Since 2006, Vale has been using fluid bed roaster off-gas scrubbing technology to capture sulphur dioxide at its smelter and convert it into sulphuric acid, thereby reducing SO₂ emissions, as well as creating a saleable product.

The substance is highly corrosive, however, and can kill plant life, as well as burn skin.