

Train with volatile cargo derails northwest of Duluth; 'no danger,' authorities say

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A freight train hauling volatile materials and other cargo derailed early Wednesday in northern Minnesota, authorities said.

The 13-car derailment of the southbound 107-car train, operated by Canadian National Railway, occurred about 3:20 a.m. roughly 25 miles northwest of Duluth, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and a rail spokesman said.

"No breach or loss of hazardous materials occurred," the Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Nine cars "contained potentially hazardous or dangerous materials," and 30 of the cars were empty at the time of the incident, the statement continued.

One material of concern that is among the derailed cars is naphthalene, said St. Louis County Emergency Services Manager Scott Camps. Naphthalene is used as an insect repellent and is best known as the active ingredient in mothballs.

While the statement read that "there is no danger to public safety," Camps said later in the morning that there is a "potential for release [of naphthalene] when they have to off-load the product from the damaged cars."

Rail crews were cleaning up the scene near Saginaw as morning's end drew near.

There was no initial word on what led to the derailment.