At about 1531 hours on August 4, a Union Pacific train derailment occurred at milepost 586.25 in St. Landry Parish, Lawtell, LA. The train with a total of 76 cars and two locomotives derailed 23 cars between the towns of Lawtell and Opelousas due to unknown causes. There were no fires or explosions caused by this derailment. No fatalities or injuries have been reported.

Of the 23 derailed cars, 4 of them are of concern:

- 1 car contains vinyl chloride, is damaged but not leaking.
- 1 car contains becanol, an environmentally hazardous material and is leaking from the air intake valve.
- 1 car has corrosive liquid and is also leaking from its air intake valve.