

***“COMMON GROUND:  
Environmental Public  
Health in California”***

Food Recall Exercise

# Background

- *E. coli* O157:H7 infections in 6 Western states over the last three months of 2007.
- 22 cases were lab confirmed with several additional cases pending over that time period.
- Eight individuals become ill the week after eating a catered meal at a soccer tournament on January 17, 2008.

# Background

- Hamburger and Lettuce that could have been cross contaminated by hamburger is implicated.
- On February 3, 2008, the Food and Drug Laboratory reported numerous samples of Brand A Ground Beef Patties (lot #123) were confirmed positive for E. coli O157:H7.
- On February 4, 2008, CDPH issued a press release which highlighted the firm's recall and advised consumers to dispose of all Brand A ground beef Lot # 123.

# INPUT 1

February 6, 2008 - The media is aggressively calling your offices and demanding to know what you are doing to protect the public. Numerous calls from the public are requesting information about the issue.

# INPUT 2

February 7, 2008 – CDPH receives the firm's initial distribution list to first level consignees. Out of 200 first level consignees, 5 retail supermarket chains are identified as having wide spread distribution throughout their facilities. This listing is provided to CCLHO and CCDEH as soon as FDB receives the information. The remainder of the list consists of distributors and processors that CDPH continues to follow-up with for retail distribution (which based on past experiences may take several weeks for all firms to supply information regarding retailers).

# INPUT 3

February 9, 2008 – CDPH reports that four environmental samples, two retain samples (from June 6, 2007 and October 10, 2007) and current product samples collected from Processor B on February 4, 2008 were positive for *E. coli* O157:H7. The firm has expanded the recall to include all Brand A ground beef produced between May 1, 2007 and February 5, 2008. Direct retail distribution identified during the expanded recall time frame includes hundreds of hospitals, schools, and correctional facilities. CDPH provides an updated list of retailers to CCDEH and CCLHO

# INPUT 4

February 10, 2008 – CDPH identifies approximately 1,500 retail facilities and restaurants that received recalled products from first level consignees. Media attention has continued to be high. CDPH provides the list of retailers and restaurants to CCDEH and CCLHO and advises that more will be forthcoming.

# INPUT 5

February 12, 2008 – CDPH has identified additional products that processors used recalled ground beef to prepare. Products include name brand lasagna, burritos, and several varieties of frozen dinners targeted for kids. Specific distribution of these products is not available yet, but most can be found in major chain grocery stores. CDPH provides the list of effected products to CCDEH and CCLHO.

# Hot Wash

What Did Not Work? Why?

Improvements and Solutions?