

2012-2013 AFDO COMMITTEE CHARGES

Food Protection & Defense Committee

Chair:

Mike Starkey

Co-Chairs:

John Tilden,

Art Johnstone

Gary Elliott

Keith Payne

Charge 1: Monitor Food & Agriculture Sector activities at DHS and of the Government Coordinating Council/Sector Coordinating Council (GCC/SCC) and report any items impacting AFDO members to the Board as encountered.

Discussion: The Chair of the AFDO Food Protection and Defense Committee has a seat on the Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council.

Visibility is a challenge of the Food and Ag Sector GCC (FASGCC). Much of the work/meetings are conducted inside the DC beltway. GCC leadership is addressing this in a couple of ways;

1. Food and Agriculture GCC (GCC) leadership is striving to hold at least one GCC meeting each year outside the DC beltway. Last year it was in Atlanta. AFDO and GCC leadership worked this year to hold a concurrent GCC and AFDO Annual Meeting in Louisville Kentucky. Logistics as they are, that didn't happen. There is a significant GCC presence on the AFDO Summer conference general session agenda.
2. The FASGCC has been cross pollinating with other GCCs particularly the Nuclear Reactor, Materials and Waste GCCs. A challenge has been identified that has gained traction. For those who are engaged in state Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) programs know, nuclear power plant drills/exercises concentrate on the first day or 2 of a release. Recovery is rarely if ever exercised. And now with the new Nuclear Regulatory Commission standard pushing ingestion phase drill cycle to every 8 years, there will be even less work on those issues. Coupled with issues that surfaced here in the U.S. as a result of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant release, the GCCs, including representatives from federal, state, local agencies and the private sector recently conducted (March 21, 2013) a tabletop exercise to further explore recovery challenges including; what happens inside the contamination zone? How do we recover contaminated land? How/where do we dispose of agriculture products; How are embargoes/ quarantines applied, held and released, risk communications etc.
3. The FASGCC Criticality Working Group is working with HITRAC (Homeland Infrastructure Threat and Risk Analysis Center (HITRAC) and the annual data call. Each year, DHS through HITRAC issues a data call to the states, where states are to identify and report to HITRAC their critical infrastructure. Early criteria was such that no food and agriculture assets made the critical infrastructure list.

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Three years ago states met with HITRAC to develop criteria more suited to the food and ag sector. The new criteria included;

- a. Distribution of product to multiple-states (at least 5) or international footprint
- b. An event that would cause greater than 10,000 casualties
- c. An event that would take greater than 1 year to recover

The challenge, with the new criteria there were inconsistencies at the state level on critical infrastructure identified. HITRAC and the FASGG Criticality Working Group has been working together to truth the criteria. See the attached letter from HITRAC



FA_Memo_Final_24Jan2013.pdf

Recommendation: Continue active involvement in the FASGCC

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

5/22/13

Charge 2: Monitor the progress and implementation of the food emergency and food defense aspects of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Discussion: The Committee is interested in understanding how we can better collaborate with FDA during the coming year in the food defense areas of FSMA implementation. Specifically:

1. How we can partner with FDA staff to review the results from the “Food Defense” section of the survey currently being conducted by AFDO, on behalf of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and in support of Section 205(c)(2) of the Food Safety Modernization Act , and then present those findings/gaps and potential strategies during the 2 hour Food Protection and Defense session of this summer’s AFDO annual meeting. This would be an important step towards better aligned food defense activities within a more nationally integrated food safety system
2. The process the FDA is using to develop and implement “strategies to leverage and enhance the food safety and defense capacities of State and local agencies in order to achieve” food safety and defense goals as outlined in FSMA Section 205 (c) (1); and
3. How AFDO can constructively contribute to refinement of those strategies.

Recommendations: Continue moving this charge forward.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

5/22/13

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Charge 3: Develop several recommendations for low/no-cost actions that can be taken by local/state/federal partners, that would lead to risk mitigation in the food and agriculture sector, or that would enhance and support the development of food defense roles at the local/state/federal levels.

Discussion: On our last two conference calls we discussed waiting a bit for the FSMA rules to develop, to see what kinds of actions (if any) emerge in the area of Food Defense. Once we determine what Food Defense activities are flowing from FSMA, we can then decide how best to encourage engagement with State and Local entities and agencies. Our goal would be to help facilitate a coordinated national effort to implement the FSMA Food Defense provisions.

In the meantime, following are two possible activities we could engage with, and for which we could work to rally state/local support:

1. FDA is releasing a new Food Defense Plan Builder tool, which will be presented with Jason Bashura as lead at the Food Safety Summit scheduled for April 30 - May 2. We could assist with the rollout of this new tool.
2. If supported by FDA, we could assemble a panel for the AFDO Conference in June to discuss the newer FDA initiatives (Food Defense Mitigation Strategies Data, the Food Defense Plan Builder tool, or both). Since FDA personnel attendance will be limited at the AFDO conference, to be effective we would need the FDA to spend some time with us on the phone before the conference, perhaps provide a PowerPoint, and generally bring us up to speed on one or both topics.

Recommendations: As FSMA continues to roll out and mature, it will be important to continue to develop, identify and share low cost/no cost risk mitigation measures. The Committee recommends continuing this charge.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 5/22/13

Charge 4: Continue to work with NASDA and other partners in the FERP roll-out.

Discussion:

The NASDA Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP) template and supplement (released September 2011) - <http://www.nasda.org/cms/7193/14352.aspx> - provides guidance to increase the consistency and alignment of state food emergency response plan with national response plans. The template highlights potential roles of government, industry, and other entities responding to both intentionally and unintentionally caused food contamination incidents. Several AFDO members are working closely with their FDA colleagues as part of the FDA Rapid Response Team (RRT) Program to strengthen response plans using the NASDA FERP and other national guidance documents. A backgrounder on the RRT Program is attached. Ten new states joined the Program in 2012 bringing the total number of participating states to 19. The RRT Program's Best Practices Manual includes a chapter on Food Emergency Response Plans to guide states interested in strengthening their emergency response plans. The 10 new states will be completing their review of existing plans within the next several months.

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RRT_Program
Overview&Evolution_

Recommendations:

Executive Committee Action: Continue on-going activity.

Approval Disapproval Date 5/22/13

Charge 5: Work with DHS representatives to determine a role for AFDO in promoting and advancing CoreShield.

Discussion:

An AFDO letter, supporting CoreSHIELD, has been forwarded to FDA, FSIS, and DHS.

Also, please see the CoreSHIELD infograph



CoreSHIELD
Infograph 12-12-12.r

Recommendations:

Executive Committee Action:

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Charge 6: Identify possible food defense contact information or links that would be useful additions to the Directory of State & Local Officials.

Discussion: Research and analysis have been ongoing since the first conference call meeting of the Food Protection and Food Defense Committee to include analysis of the current Directory of State & Local Officials. It has been analyzed that there is currently limited information on food defense contact information, which makes this charge a valid one to pursue. However, even with that being stated there are limits to the information so far researched and available through online information and in the current makeup of state and local officials in the directory itself. Also many state and local officials are not designating individual staff members to food defense itself, making it difficult to name contacts specific to food defense responsibilities.

Recommendations: The recommendation is to carry this charge over to next year, but with continuous activities. First the current Directory of State and Local Officials should be revisited and updated to include current and up to date information in general. It is recommended that academic contacts at Universities and Colleges be included that conduct food defense research. Second, a survey should be conducted of all state and local officials and higher education facilities to identify individuals who are responsible for food defense outreach and practice. The committee will reach out to the AFDO staff to provide a list of contact emails of state and local directors of food protection programs at the public health and agricultural regulatory levels to start the survey. Information gathered after this activity will be analyzed, synthesized and reported before the 2014 AFDO Conference.

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Executive Committee Action: Refer to Joe Corby and Ron Klein to contact FDA for additional resources to pursue this initiative.

Approval



Disapproval



Date

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Charge 7: Identify food defense educational materials that are available from state programs that could be imported into the Topical Index.

Discussion: Research and analysis have been ongoing since the first conference call meeting of the Food Protection and Food Defense Committee to include analysis of the current Topical Index. In the Topical Index there are four categories that contain information related to food defense in the category content; emergency management, emergency preparedness, emergency response, and food defense. Only 19 state food safety and agricultural agencies and one association NASDA are represented with food defense or food emergency information. It has been analyzed that while the food defense category currently has information with food defense in the link title, there is currently only 8 of the 15 links under food defense that have specific information on food defense, but no real educational material. In the other emergency categories the information is also limited for educational purposes, which makes this charge a valid one to pursue.

Recommendations: The recommendation is to carry this charge over to next year, but with continuous activities. Since there were limited state and local food regulatory programs with information in the Topical Index specific to food defense educational information, a survey to state, local, tribal and educational institutions specializing in food science and food defense issues, is recommended. The committee will reach out to the AFDO staff to provide a list of contact emails of state and local directors of food protection programs at the public health and agricultural regulatory levels, as well as educational institutions and industry associations to start the survey. The survey will be used to gather information on food defense specific educational material that these entities would be willing to share with AFDO for placement in the Topical Index. Also recommended is revisiting the Topical Index of Food Defense, Emergency Management, Emergency Preparedness, and Emergency Response and consolidating like item links and moving item links to their more specific topic category. Some emergency response information for food protection was under emergency preparedness and emergency management, and the same for emergency preparedness. Information gathered after this activity will be analyzed, synthesized and reported before the 2014 AFDO Conference.

Executive Committee Action: Refer to Ron Klein/Jim Melvin. Jim can prepare a letter to send to Lab Directors. We could also do a survey.

Approval



Disapproval



Date

5/22/13

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