



Food Defense and Emergency Response at FSIS/USDA

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FSIS Office of Food Defense & Emergency Response (OFDER)

- Established in August 2002
- Mission: To prevent, prepare for and coordinate a response to an intentional attack on the food supply and large scale emergencies





FSIS Activities

- Vulnerability Assessments
- Exercises/Tests
- Surveillance
- Countermeasures
- Outreach and Training
- Research/Study



Vulnerability Assessments

- Conducted to provide FSIS direction
- Use CARVER+Shock as tool
- Conducted through the SPPA as well as internal/joint agency
- Updated per HSPD-9



Vulnerability Assessments

- Processes in food chain (ground beef, hot dogs, sausage, deli meats)
- Processing Plants in State Prisons
- MREs, legal and illegal imports
- Future - water in processing (with EPA)
- Future – threat agent specific



Preparedness Exercises

- District/State exercises for responding to a food incident
 - Manage incidents using ICS
 - Establish FSIS/State roles and communication lines
 - Use of FoodShield
 - Including risk communication



District Exercise Schedule

- Dallas 6/20-21/07
- Madison 8/22-23/07
- Beltsville 8/28-29/07
- Philadelphia 10/03-04/07
- Atlanta 1/09-10/08
- Des Moines 5/07-08/08
- Boulder 7/30-31/08
- Springdale 9/24-25/08
- Lawrence 12/03-04/08
- Jackson 2/04-05/09



Other Exercises/Tests

- Joint with other agencies/organizations
 - AMS procured ground beef for schools (FSIS, AMS, FNS and State Distribution Agencies)
 - Food Defense Surveillance Activity
 - Customs and Border Protection/ FSIS (October, 2007)
 - Pandemic Plan (March, 2008)
 - G8 Food Defense Exercise (2008)



Surveillance

- Food defense risk based assessments at
 - Plants
 - Warehouses/Distribution Centers
 - Ports
- Data collection and connecting the dots
 - FABIS (APHIS and FSIS)
 - CCMS
 - Increasing data sources



Countermeasures/Mitigation

- All food defense activities are for the purpose of mitigation
- Conducted Mitigation Strategies Workshop through the GCC/SCC (September 2006)



Outreach and Training

- Targeted food defense awareness
 - Small and very small operations
- Updating guidance material based on VAs and exercises
 - *Developing a Food Defense Plan for Slaughter and Processing Plants*
 - www.fsis.usda.gov
- Food defense training for DOT staff (Dec 2007)



Research/Studies

- Viability and survivability of threat agents in food matrices
- Detection methods for threat agents in food matrices
- Determine the oral infectious toxic dose of threat agents
- Methods for decontaminating a facility



Questions?