

FSIS' Food Defense Initiatives

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Carol Maczka, Ph.D.

Assistant Administrator

**USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
Office of Food Defense & Emergency Response**



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**



OFDER's Mission Areas

- Manage food defense and food safety emergencies
- Provide outreach and training
- Conduct vulnerability assessments and develop countermeasures
- Conduct surveillance
- Gather intelligence; and
- Facilitate FSIS' Continuity of Operations during crises

Manage Food Defense and Food Safety Emergencies

- Develop standard operating procedures for responding to emergencies
- Created an Incident Reporting System
- Develop Federal emergency preparedness & response plans
- Develop plan for providing federal assistance to state and local agencies in an efficient manner
 - Cooperative agreement between FDA, USDA/FSIS, DHS and NASDA
 - Develop a template to assist States and locals in establishing plans
- Laboratory capabilities
 - FERN
 - eLexnet
 - BSL-3 laboratory



Provide Outreach and Training

- Develop exercises to test readiness
 - Headquarters
 - Field (District/State Exercises)
- Food Security Guidelines
- Industry Self-Assessment Checklist
- Model Food Defense Plans
- Food Defense Awareness Training

Food Defense Awareness Training

- Developed by FSIS, FDA, AMS, and FNS
- Target audience:
 - federal, state, local, and tribal food-industry regulators
 - school food authorities, nutrition assistance program operators and administrators
 - food industry and other individuals essential in responding to a food emergency due to an intentional attack
- Internet and CD-ROM versions; also available in face-to-face training (12 districts)
- Content: Vulnerability awareness; Preventive measures; Industry actions; Federal actions (5420 Series Directives)

Model Food Defense Plans

- Model food defense plans are a starting point for development of facility-specific plans.
- Assess vulnerabilities and identify preventive measures.
- Model Food Defense Plans developed for:
 - egg processing facilities
 - meat and poultry processing facilities
 - slaughter facilities
 - import establishments
- Training targeted toward small & very small plants; all industry welcome
- Face-to-face training



Vulnerability Assessments

- Completed seven vulnerability assessments for selected domestic and imported food products
- Used to determine most vulnerable products, likely agents, and potential sites of contamination
- Identify countermeasures to reduce risk

Conduct Surveillance

- FSIS 5420 Series Directives
- Consumer Complaint Monitoring System
- Other databases (e.g., PBIS, AIIS, Incident Reporting System)
- National Biosurveillance Integration System
- International food defense activities

International Food Defense

- Import Surveillance Liaison Officer
- International Trade Data System
- CBP-NTC
- Bilateral arrangements with Canada/Mexico



Gather Intelligence

- Assist intelligence gathering activities for CIA and FBI by developing information briefs
- Linking information systems for data sharing and analysis
- National Counterterrorism Center liaison
- Develop infrastructure for networking of FBI, USDA OIG, and FSIS Criminal Investigation Division

Continuity of Operations

- Develop standard operating procedures for relocating to alternate sites
 - Designate essential personnel
 - Vital records
- Exercises to test readiness

Summary

- FSIS is prepared to respond to threats and large scale emergencies
- Terrorism is global--Protection is local
- Field personnel serve as an early alert
- Sharing information/intelligence is critical



Contact Information

- FSIS – OFDER 24 hour hotline: 1-800-333-1284

