



Wilted Woes

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Tabletop Exercise



Michigan & Great Lakes Region
Tabletop Exercise of April 23, 2012



Funding Agencies & Participant Groups

Funding Agencies / Grants --

- U.S. Food & Drug Administration
 - Food Protection Task Force Conference Program Grant
 - Food Related Emergency Exercise (FREE-B) Toolkit Grant
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services—Asst. Secretary for Preparedness and Response Grant (GLBHI Program)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security—State Homeland Security Grant

Primary Participant Groups --

- Michigan Food & Ag Protection and Defense Work Group (Lead: Brad Deacon)
- Michigan Food Safety Alliance (Lead: John Tilden)
- Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (Lead: Diane Krueger)

Primary Purpose and Goal of Tabletop Exercise

Purpose

- Crucial we ensure food products are safe for consumption
- At any point during production or distribution, food can be contaminated accidentally (food safety) or on purpose from sabotage, fraud or terrorist activities (food defense)

Goal

- Tabletop exercise provided participants with an overview of what happens at local, State/Provincial and Federal levels during a food-related incident
- Focused on roles that key personnel play in containing the problem and protecting consumers

Exercise Structure

- This was a highly interactive, facilitated exercise with two learning modules, taking 4 to 5 hours to complete
 - FDA has developed five FREE-B exercises, and yesterday's scenario follows 'Wilted Woes,' as well as incorporating questions from other scenarios
 - Initially developed by Consolidated Safety Services and revised by IFT on behalf of FDA CFSAN Food Defense Oversight Team; also produced in cooperation with CDC
 - Scenario was hypothetical, but plausible – involved an illness outbreak related to a food product, investigation of the cause, and follow-up

Exercise Structure, continued

- 103 participants from U.S. and Canada, Great Lakes states, and more
- One facilitator, and several evaluators and observers
- Participants split into work groups, by table, representing:
 - Epis / Investigators / Public Health / Communicable Disease
 - Food / Feed Industry
 - Food / Feed Regulatory Agencies
 - Federal Agencies
 - Laboratory
 - Border Personnel / Law Enforcement / Legal





Overarching Themes - Takeaways

- PLANS
- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- COMMUNICATION

Overarching Themes - Takeaways

- Emergency Plans – maintaining functional literacy
 - Having them – updating
 - Knowing them
 - Using them

Overarching Themes - Takeaways

- Role and responsibilities – clearly defined and mutually understood
 - Acknowledge the wide variety of stakeholders
 - Know your own lane
 - Respect the lanes of others (expertise, resources, authorities)

Overarching Themes - Takeaways

- Communication: knocking down silos
 - understanding what information is needed by whom and when
 - Know who, what, where, when, how
 - Be intentional – use both formal and informal loops
 - Plain & simple language – jargon-free

Resources

- For more information, see <http://www.fda.gov/fooddefense>
- For scenario specific resources, see the list in the SITMAN