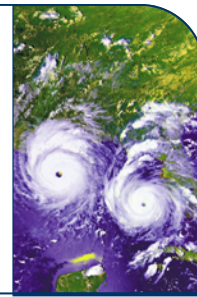




College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences

Disaster Education Response Team



What To Do If A Food Product Is Recalled

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A food recall usually occurs when the product manufacturer or producer initiates a recall in cooperation with a federal agency. Not all recalls will cause serious health problems, but they should all be taken seriously. Below you will find some information on how to determine if a food product has been recalled and the appropriate actions that need to be taken.

Food recalls are announced on TV and radio, in newspapers, and on the Internet at www.recalls.gov.

To determine if a product in your home has been recalled, match the identifying marks listed below with the recall notice details :

- Product name
- Brand
- Container Codes
- Container Size
- Establishment number (meat or poultry products only)



**Establishment
Number**

The recall of one product does not mean all forms of that product are a potential problem.

The severity of each food recall is defined by class:

- Class 1 recall - Involves dangerous or defective products that are reasonably likely to cause serious health problems or even death
- Class 2 recall - Involves a product that may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences
- Class 3 recall - Use of or exposure to the product is not likely to cause adverse health consequences

Other recall terms that may be used:

- Public Health Alert - May be issued when USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service has reason to believe that a meat or poultry product may be associated with human illnesses, but cannot identify a specific product that should be recalled.
- Market Withdraw - Involves a product that is withdrawn from the market because it does not meet company quality specifications or it exhibits a minor infraction of regulatory requirements.

***Go to our website www.tnstate.edu/agriculture for additional
Disaster Education Resources.***



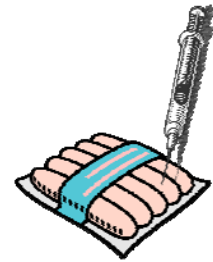
If you have a food product that has been recalled in your home:

- Do not attempt to eat the product
- Do not provide the product to others (e.g. food banks or pets)
- Return the product to the store or place of purchase, or
- Throw the product away

Be sure to wash your hands with warm water and soap after handling any product that has been recalled.

It is also important to watch for signs of tampering before a food product is used:

- Signs of food tampering:
 - Broken seals on or around the package
 - Safety button on the jar lid has been popped
 - Unusual stains on the product—discoloration, mold, or liquid on products are signs that the product is not safe
 - Product has an unusual smell or odor
 - Damage to the package - To see if there is damage, compare the container to other containers on the shelf



If you suspect someone has tampered with your food product:

- Do not attempt to eat the product or provide the product to others
- Return the product to the store of place of purchase, or
- Notify the correct authority (listed below) and follow their instructions. They might want you to save the product for further investigation.

If you have questions about a recalled product or suspect that a food product has been tampered with contact:

- Local Health Department: contact information can be found in the phone book or on the Internet
- Food and Drug Administration Hotline at: 1-301-443-1240 for Seafood, Fruit, Vegetables, Eggs, and other Non-meat Items
- US Department of Agriculture Hotline at: 1-800-535-4555 for Meat and Poultry



To receive recalls and alerts automatically on your phone or by email, go to www.foodsafety.gov and click on the Recalls & Alerts tab. Follow the instructions provided.



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