Foul Fruits: Agona-izing over Contaminated Papayas

Julie Loera
Texas Department of State Health Services
Texas Rapid Response Team
InFORM Conference 2013
Takes a Multi-level Team Effort
Federal, State, Local

- Epidemiologists
- Laboratorians
- Environmental Specialists/Regulatory Officials
- Subject Matter Experts
Environmental Health Specialists
Roles in Foodborne Illness Outbreaks

*Contributing Knowledge Base*

- Commodities
- Product Shelf Life
- Industry Handling Practices
- Potential Cross Contamination Issues
- Distribution Issues
- Jurisdictional Issues
- Traceback/Traceforward
The Tale of Two Outbreaks

- **2008**
  - *Raw Produce* - *Salmonella Saintpaul*
    - 1442 cases in 43 states

- **2011**
  - *Whole, Fresh Imported Papayas* - *Salmonella Agona*
    - 106 cases in 25 states
Salmonella St. Paul – After Action Findings

• Duplicative efforts – tracing records
• Little Coordination
• Firms getting visiting multiple times from different agencies asking for the same thing.
• Exhausted Staff
• High Stress
• Time spent on phone trying to maintain situational awareness – multiple calls with multiple agencies
• Response time – was it fast enough
Texas Rapid Response Team for Foodborne Illness
National Rapid Response Team Concept

- Surveillance, investigation, and response, to alleged food-related incidents and emergencies
- Collection, analysis, and dissemination of information that may prevent recurrence
- Response to all food hazard incidents in the farm to table continuum using ICS
- Operate in conjunction with other food and feed agencies, other state RRTs, FDA district offices, and state emergency response operations centers.
Texas Rapid Response Team (TRRT)

Texas Department of State Health Services
- Division for Regulatory Services
- Division for Disease and Control Prevention
  - Emerging and Infectious Diseases Branch
  - Laboratory Services Section
- Division for Regional and Local Health Services

Office Of the Texas State Chemist

US Food and Drug Administration
- Dallas District Office
- Southwest Import District
- Southwest Regional Office
- Food Emergency Response Network (FERN)
Scope of Team Operations

The purpose of the TRRT is to provide preparedness, prevention, and timely response to food and/or feed related disasters that may affect the citizens of Texas.

The TRRT may respond to large scale investigations involving food and/or feed and large scale recalls of food and/or feed. It is not intended to include a natural disaster (hurricane, forest fire, etc.). However, there may be outcomes of a natural disaster that require the activation of all or portions of the TRRT under the State of Texas Emergency Operations Command.
Tale 2 – Salmonella Agona 2011

Salmonella Agona Outbreak
n=106
Summer 2011

Source: Center for Disease Control, August 2011, Texas Department of State Health Services, Community Preparedness Section, March 2012 thaywood
What worked in Agona

• Timing
What worked in Agona

• Timing
• Critical Coordination with Epidemiology
What worked in Agona

- Timing
- Critical Coordination with Epidemiology
- Coordination with ECRT
- Traceback convergence
- Timing
- Critical Coordination with Epidemiology
- Coordination with ECRT
- Traceback convergence
- Shared Communication Platform
Welcome to the Texas Rapid Response Team Project Space

Welcome to the new Texas Rapid Response Team Project Space. This is the place for us to work collaboratively to improve communication and situational awareness, two of our biggest challenges. Just to give you an introduction to what this space can do:

**Headlines**

**Welcome to the Texas Rapid Response Team Project Space**

John Walker - RRT1 - May 30, 2011 - 10:38 AM

Welcome to the new Texas Rapid Response Team Project Space. This is the place for us to work collaboratively to improve communication and situational awareness, two of our biggest challenges. Just to give you an introduction to what this space can do:

**Bulletins**

**RRT Organization and Members**

**Organization Chart**

Debra Callan - RRT14 - Oct 27, 2011 - 10:00 AM - 2 Attachments

This is the latest update of the Organization Chart. Please review and send any comments/amendments to debbra.callan@dshs.state.tx.us. 3/05/2012.

**Upcoming Events**

**Team Contact Information**

**TableTop Exercise**

Debra Callan - RRT14 - Mar 5, 2012 - 12:39 PM

The first ERT TableTop Exercise is scheduled for 8 am on April 25, 2012.
Mexico Invoices
Darwona Kiebrick - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 13, 2011 - 9:28 AM
Mexico Invoices Folder

Distribution Records
Darwona Kiebrick - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jun 27, 2011 - 1:29 PM

Distribution Records

CDC Update - 7/20/2011
Debra Catan - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 20, 2011 - 1:06 PM - 1 Attachment

5 Agona Flow Chart 07.13.2011
Catherine Thibodeaux - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 13, 2011 - 5:35 PM - 1 Attachment

traceback Chart - Updated 07.11.2011
Julie Loera - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 11, 2011 - 3:42 PM - 1 Attachment

5 Agona Flow chart 07.05.2011
Claire Perkins - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 6, 2011 - 9:02 AM - 1 Attachment

Secondary Supplier List
Julie Loera - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 1, 2011 - 1:20 PM
Secondary Suppliers - Revised June 30, 2011

Distribution Flow Diagram
Julie Loera - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jun 30, 2011 - 9:56 AM - 1 Attachment

Assignments

PHASE 2 Assignment Spreadsheet - Read Only
Quick Link
Darwona Kiebrick - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 6, 2011 - 8:26 AM

PHASE 2 Assignment Spreadsheet

Assignment Spreadsheet Editing Discontinued
Darwona Kiebrick - RRTSalmonellaAgona - Jul 5, 2011 - 7:34 PM

A glitch has been found in the "check out"/"edit assignment spreadsheet/"check in" procedure. Phase 2 supplier records should be scanned and uploaded into the Phase 2 Records folder.
What worked in Agona

• Timing
• Critical Coordination with Epidemiology
• Coordination with ECRT
• Traceback convergence
• Shared Communication Platform
• Laboratory
• Luck
Moving Forward

• Continue early communications between Epidemiology/Lab/Regulatory
• Bolster coordination with Local Health Departments
• Continue to utilize and pursue real time communication platforms to share information across the nation
• Continue to develop SOPs
• Continued training