



Salmonella Saintpaul Outbreak

Overview of FDA's Response and Post-Response Efforts for the Salmonella Saintpaul Outbreak

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InFORM 2013

Response Begins

- CORE Response Team 1 began its activities on March 21, 2013 due to:
 - ★ Rare PFGE pattern (JN6X01.0161)
 - ★ Rapidly expanding number of illnesses increasing from 6 to 41 cases (within 2 weeks)
 - ★ Suspect vehicle was an FDA regulated product, tight geographic clustering of cases
 - ★ Need for CORE Response coordination with ORA, CFSAN, and CDC.

Response Actions

- CORE Response Team 1, with other FDA Offices as well as Federal and State partners coordinated:
 - ★ **Internal and External Communications**
 - ★ **Samples**
 - ★ **FDA Regulatory Actions**
 - ★ **Investigations and inspections of implicated firms.**

Response Actions

- FDA began surveillance activities of cucumbers imported by Tricar Sales Inc. in Rio Rico, Arizona.
- Traceback was performed for seven legs of the investigation
- Regulatory actions taken by FDA:
 - ★ **Recalls**
 - ★ **Import Alert**

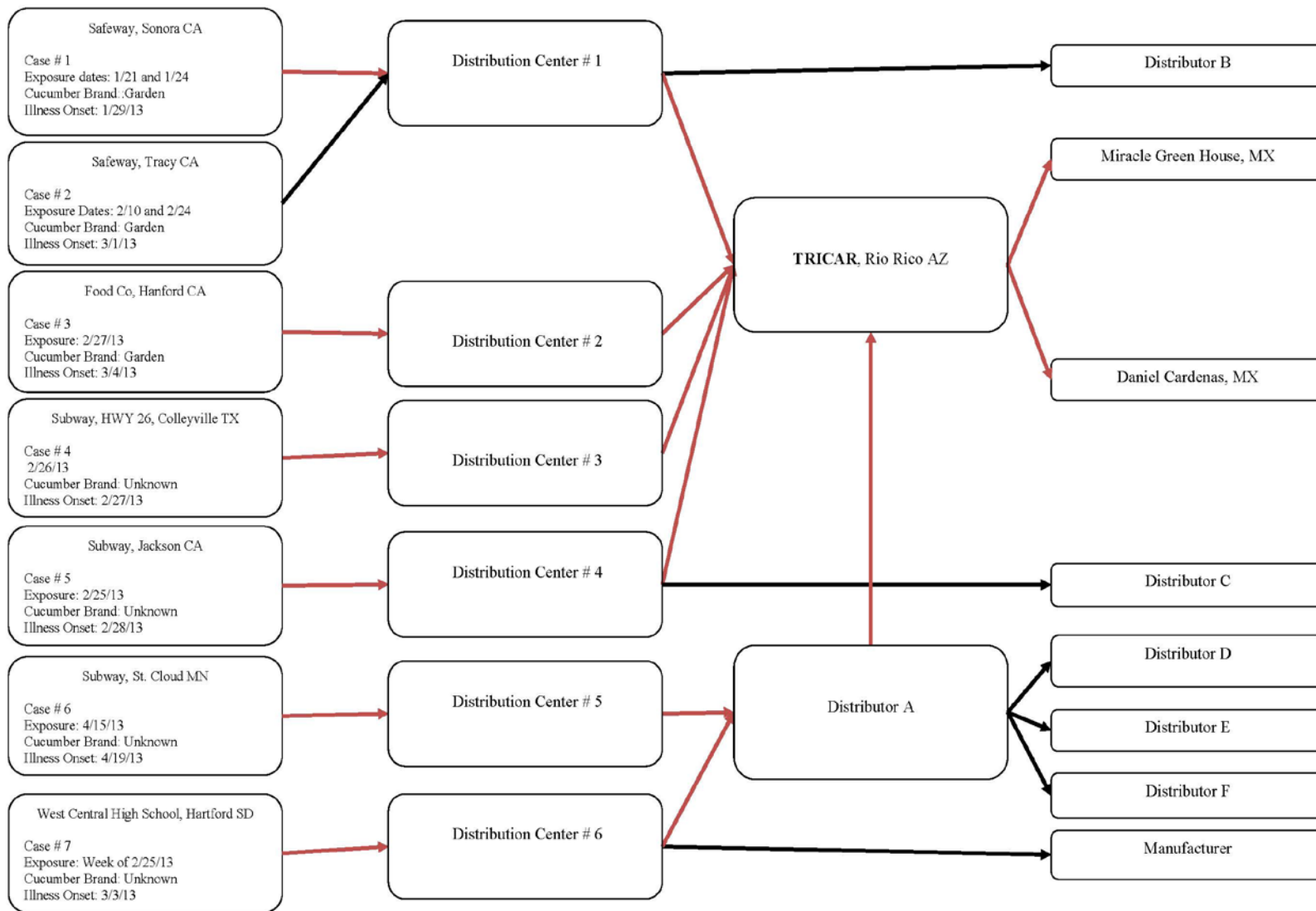
Traceback

- FDA and State partners traced back seven cases. Each case was exposed to cucumbers at a unique point of service.
- Case exposure to cucumbers ranged from 1/21/13 to 4/15/13 with illness onset dates from 1/29/13 to 4/19/13.
- Six of the seven legs that were traced, converged to Tricar Sales in Rio Rico, Arizona.

Salmonella Saintpaul/Cucumbers/ML/March 2013

[January 2013 – April 2013]

MASTER TRACEBACK DIAGRAM (DRAFT)



* Subway St Cloud, MN leg did not receive cucumbers from Pero Family Farms, FL during the outbreak period.

FDA Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) 5/10/13]

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Regulatory Actions

- **Recalls**

- ★ **Tricar did not recall products during the outbreak due to the:**

- Inability to distinguish Tricar cucumbers from other cucumbers
- Comingling at the Point Of Service
- No contaminated cucumbers on the market due to shelf-life.

Import Alert

- On April 25,2013:
 - ★ Daniel Cardenas Izabal and Miracle Greenhouses were added to Import Alert 99-23 “Detention Without Physical Examination of Raw Fresh Fruits And Vegetables From Listed Manufacturers, Shippers and/or Growers Due To The Presence Of Pathogenic Contamination“
- A root cause analysis and product testing was conducted at each location.
- July 17, 2013 :
 - ★ The firms were removed from the Import Alert.

Working with the Firm:

- Tricar Sales
 - ★ FDA maintained consistent communication and discussions with Tricar as the outbreak investigation progressed.
- Notifications from FDA and CDC were given to industry partners before posting updates for the outbreak on the web.

Lessons Learned

- Work with CDC on when shopper card information is needed and the best method for gathering and sharing that information.
- Work with subject matter experts in FDA, CDC, and the industry to form hypotheses and determine next steps.
- Work with our international partners to help them understand traceback and how that impacts our investigations.

CORE Communications Team: Press Releases

FDA release: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks>

CDC release: <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul-04-13/index.html>

The Packer: <http://www.thepacker.com/>

Food Safety News: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2013/04/publishers-platform-cucumbers-salmonella-and-budget-cuts/>

Fox News: <http://www.foxnews.com/04/25/salmonella-outbreak-linked-to-cucumbers-sickens-73/>

USA Today: <http://www.usatoday.com/mexican-cucumbers-salmonella-sicken->

CBS News: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204_162-57581596/salmonella-poisoning-connected-to-mexican-cucumbers/

Washington Post (AP): <http://www.washingtonpost.com/fda-detains-imports-of-mexican-cucumbers-after-linking-them-to-illnesses-in-18-states>

Questions??