



Yuma EA IMT Setup

(June 2018 deployment)

“Creating a team of 22 strangers from 8 Groups”

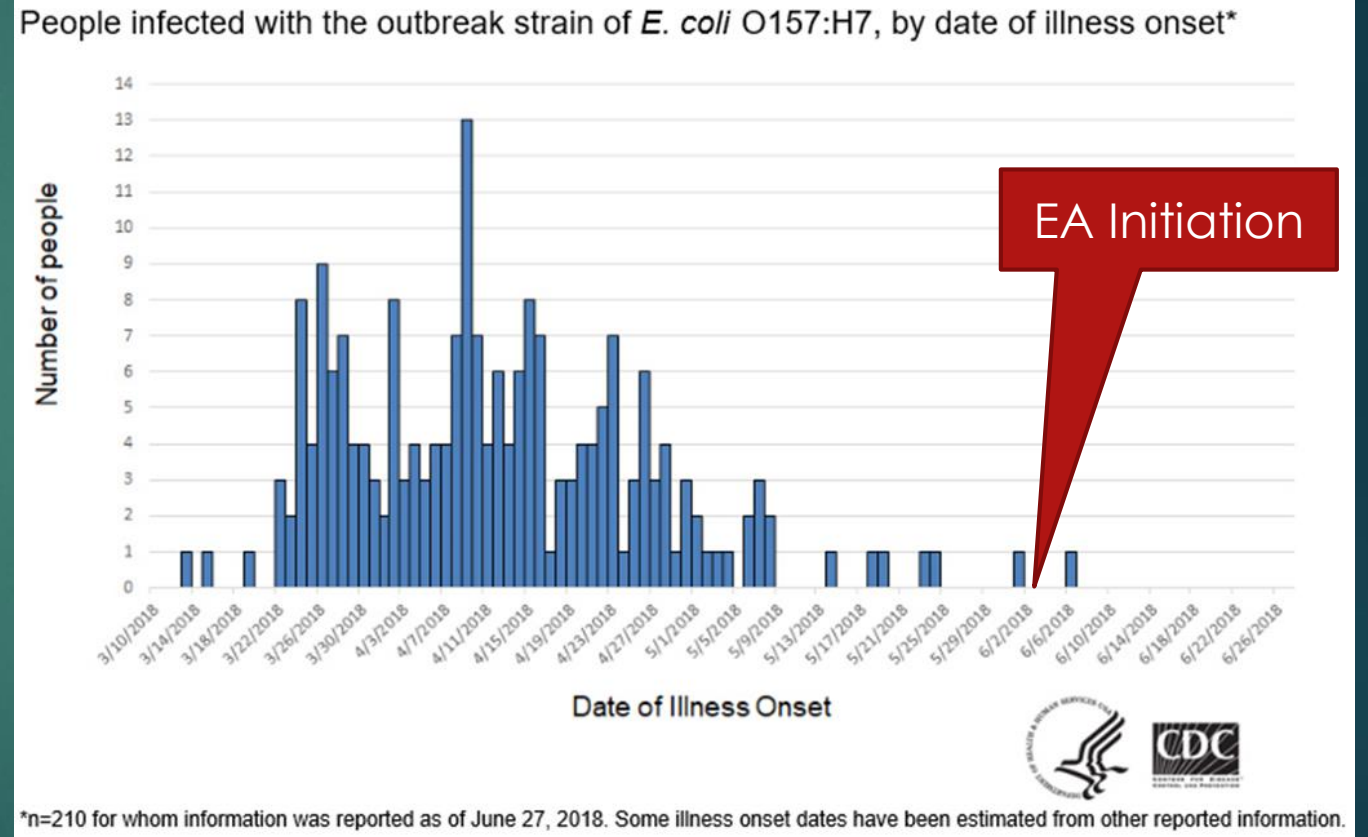
J. CHRISTOPHER YEE, ORA SR EMERG. COORD

KEVIN GERRITY, ORA NATIONAL EXPERT – FOODS

The Mission...

Find the root cause of an E. Coli outbreak in romaine (chopped/whole head)

- 210 cases from 36 states (including 5 fatalities)
- 96 hospitalizations (27 people with HUS)



Yuma EA Geographic Range



Unusual
Constraints:

Impact on
Ops

Uncertain Scope

- ✓ No traceback convergence - sampling strategy had to be flexible
- ✓ Widespread geographical scope (120+ miles) - affects Logs/ Ops
- ✓ A total of 36 fields on 23 farms identified by traceback - affects everything

Unusual
Constraints:

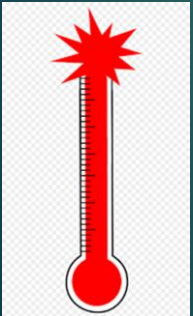
Impact on
Ops

Uncertain Team Composition

- ✓ Varied skills & agency experience: ORA/CFSAN PSN, CFSAN, CORE, ORA: OHAFO, DEN Yuma RP, CDC, PSFFL, and AZ.
- ✓ Non-regulatory in nature - affected protocols, regulatory strategy, and communications
- ✓ Team was split between 2 hotels (field teams together with Logs, IMT in other hotel)

Unusual Constraints:

Impact on Ops



Political & Jurisdictional Considerations

- ✓ No pre-existing 20.88 with AZ
- ✓ Multiple Industry Associations (CA, AZ)
- ✓ Multiple Irrigation Districts (AZ and CA)
- ✓ Involved CAFOs - no FDA jurisdiction
- ✓ Press/ FOIA requests were expected

Unusual Constraints: Impact on Ops

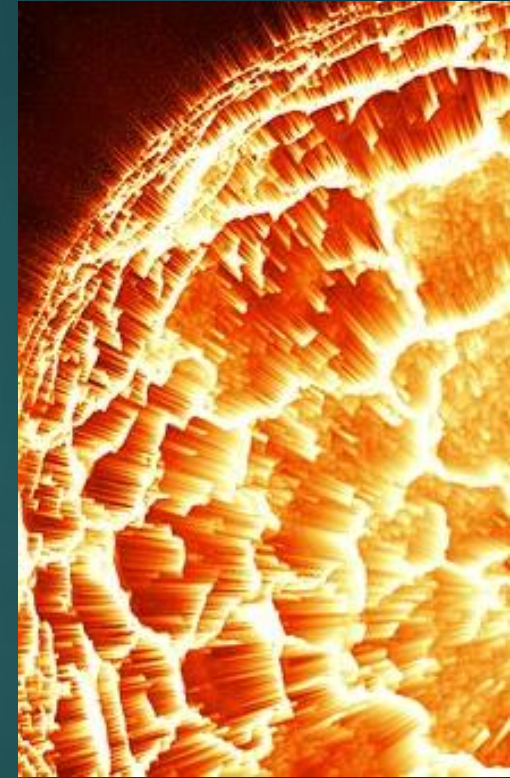
Other Considerations

- ✓ No RRT
- ✓ Internal agency policies (ORA PSN v. CFSAN PSN)
- ✓ Only 3 people had ICS position-specific training (IC, OSC, LSC, PSC...)

Accomplishments

In four days, this EA Team:

- ▶ Visited/ Assessed 30+ locations
 - ✓ Made 2 CAFO non-reg. visits
 - ✓ 100+ miles of river surveyed
- ▶ Administered 13 farm surveys and collected 179 sub samples
- ▶ Daily heat averaged 104° F
- ▶ Found 3 positive, matching samples to this outbreak



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Reporting, Communications, Reg. Strategies
 - ✓ EA Team Report Writing- formalized strategy needed
 - ✓ Identifying partner roles prior to EA activities
 - ✓ Advanced 20.88 Agreements
- ▶ State / Federal information sharing & Rapid Response Teams
- ▶ Even more Safety precautions
- ▶ AARs/ Hot Washes at multiple levels was important
- ▶ Stick with ICS: Ops Chief needs to be with IMT and accessible