



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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HEALTH ADVISORY

CASTLEBERRY FOOD PRODUCTS RECALLED

Health Department Warns Consumers about Risk of Botulism Poisoning from Hot Dog Chili Sauce Marketed Under a Variety of Brand Names

LEONARDTOWN, MD (August 31, 2007) St. Mary's County Health Department is warning citizens about an ongoing food recall that covers a variety of products produced by Castleberry Food Company in Augusta, Georgia. Last week the U.S. Food and Drug Administration advised consumers not to eat 10 oz. cans of Castleberry's Hot Dog Chili Sauce, Austex Hot Dog Chili Sauce and Kroger Hot Dog Chili Sauce with "best by" dates from April 30, 2009 through May 22, 2009 due to possible botulism contamination. Botulism can be fatal.

Consumers who have any of these products or any foods made with these products should throw them away immediately. The "best by dates" can be found on the can lids. If the "best by" date is missing or unreadable consumers should throw the product out.

According to Kevin Morrow, recall and emergency coordinator for the Food and Drug Administration Baltimore District, it appears from hundreds of checks conducted by USDA and FDA since the initial recall that the hazardous products are being found on the shelves, particularly in the nation's smaller grocery stores, dollar stores, "mom-and-pop's", independent food stores, as well as, drug store chains and "quick marts". To date, the FDA has not traced any of the recalled products to St. Mary's County. Dr. William Icenhower, St. Mary's County Health Officer, notes however, that due to the large number of products and the hazard these products present, extra measures should be taken to spread the news of the recall to consumers. In addition, he is particularly concerned that notice of the recall gets to charitable organizations such as food banks that may be the recipients of recalled products inadvertently donated to them.

Symptoms of botulism poisoning can begin from 6 hours to 2 weeks after eating food that

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Food Recall, p. 2

contains the toxin. Symptoms may include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness that moves progressively down the body, affecting the shoulders first then descending to the upper arms, lower arms, thighs, calves, etc. Botulism poisoning can also cause paralysis of the breathing muscles which can result in death unless assistance with breathing (mechanical ventilation) is provided.

Individuals who show these symptoms and who may have recently eaten Castleberry's Hot Dog Chili Sauce, Austex Hot Dog Chili Sauce, or Kroger Hot Dog Chili Sauce should seek immediate medical attention.

FDA will provide updates as more information becomes available. Consumers can call the FDA at 1-888-SAFEFOOD.

Castleberry recommends consumers with any questions or concerns about this recall should contact Jamie Leicht or Fleishman Hillard at 1-888-203-8446.

For more information about the recall visit the U.S. Food and Drug administration Web site at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/castleberry.html#recall>.

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