

# **This is an Official State of Montana**

## **DPHHS HAN Update**

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System  
Tuesday, July 31, 2007 3:50 PM

### **Outbreak of *Botulism* Associated with Canned Chili**

**Many of you have been actively involved in checking with your local retailers and food banks to assure that these products have been removed from store shelves. Thanks for your diligence. FDA, USDA and FCSS have also been auditing retailers and reporting their findings. If you have been visiting or contacting retailers in your jurisdictions and have not submitted an audit form or other type of report to FCSS, please do so as soon as possible. If the audit form is not used, provide at least the name and city location of the establishment contacted/visited, and whether the retailer had any of the recalled products on display or in storage.**

**Attached are the most recent documents associated with this nationwide recall of canned human and pet food products. Media coverage of this recall has been spotty in MT so in an effort to increase exposure to the consumer level, a Public Service Announcement has been developed to air on radio stations across the state (script attached), and information has been added to the state DPHHS web page at [www.health.mt.gov](http://www.health.mt.gov) for easy access (big square button titled HEALTH ALERT). Also attached is a spread sheet listing the firms visited to date by FDA and FCSS and the latest releases from FDA.**

**Consumers are being encouraged to notify the store manager and contact the state or their local health department if they discover recalled products on store shelves.**

**Please contact Howard Reid, 444-5306, Molly Carlson at 444-2823, or Janet Stetzer at 444-5309, if you have questions or need assistance.**

#### **Background**

CDC has notified state health officials of an investigation of an outbreak of botulism associated with canned hot dog chili sauce. As of July 21, 2007, four cases of botulism have been reported to CDC from Indiana (2 cases) and Texas (2 cases). Onset dates range from June 29 to July 9, 2007. All four persons were reported to have consumed Castleberry's brand Hot Dog Chili Sauce Original. Botulinum toxin was identified in leftover chili sauce from an unlabeled sealable bag collected from a patient's refrigerator.

Due to possible contamination with botulinum toxin, CDC, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) are advising persons not to eat certain canned food products manufactured by Castleberry's Food Company. These include certain Castleberry's brands as well as products distributed under other brand names. The recall includes some canned dog food. A listing of the recalled products can be found at the following websites:

[http://www.castleberrys.com/news\\_productrecall.asp](http://www.castleberrys.com/news_productrecall.asp) (for Castleberry's website )

<http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7/alerts.html> (for FDA Website )

Persons with signs or symptoms of botulism who have eaten Castleberry's brand Hot Dog Chili Sauce or any of the other recalled products are advised to immediately contact their health care provider. These include new onset of double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, or muscle weakness. If untreated, the illness may progress from head to toe, with paralysis of the face, arms, breathing muscles, trunk, and legs. Symptoms generally begin 18 to 36 hours after eating a contaminated food, but they can occur as early as 6 hours or as late as 10 days. Health care providers evaluating persons with signs of botulism should contact their State health department immediately.

Consumers with questions about the recall should contact the company's Consumer Hotline at (888) 203-8446. Media with questions about the recall should contact the company public affairs representative Della Sweetman at (619) 200-0436 or Doug McGraw at (212) 453-2202.

## Resources

General information about botulism can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism.htm>

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The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information of immediate of utility relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

### Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

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