

Date: July 24, 2007

Risk of Botulism Poisoning from Castleberry Canned Meat Products

As of July 21, 2007, four (4) cases of botulism linked to consumption of Castleberry canned meat products have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); 2 cases from Indiana and 2 cases from Texas. All four cases report consuming Castleberry Hot Dog Chili Sauce Original. Symptom onset dates range from June 29 to July 9, 2007.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning the public not to eat certain Castleberry canned meat products, all of which have been voluntarily recalled by Castleberry's Food Company. The list of these products can be viewed at the following USDA website:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_033_2007_expanded/index.asp.

Prompt diagnosis and early treatment of botulism are essential to minimize the otherwise significant risk of death from this disease. Healthcare providers evaluating persons with signs of botulism should immediately contact the Community Epidemiology Branch (CEB) at (619) 515-6620 to facilitate the potential release of botulinum antitoxin from the CA Department of Public Health. Epidemiologic investigation by CEB staff is critical to prevent further cases from occurring, especially if a hazardous food may still be available for consumption.

Symptoms of botulism usually occur within 12-36 hours of exposure and may include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, and muscle weakness that moves progressively down the body, affecting the shoulders first then descending to the upper arms, lower arms, thighs, calves, etc. Wound botulism presents with similar symptoms in adults and is another form of botulism that should be considered.

For additional information about botulism, please visit the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism.htm. Consumers with questions or concerns should visit the Castleberry website at www.castleberrys.com or call Castleberry's consumers hotline at 1-800-203-4412 or 1-888-203-8446. Consumers who bought recalled food items can report where the products were purchased by calling the local hotline at 619-338-2283.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)

County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch