Texas Rapid Response Team (TRRT) & Outbreak Response

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What is a RRT?

- **Rapid Response Team (RRT)**
  - The Food Protection RRTs conduct integrated, multiagency responses to all-hazards food and feed emergencies in various states across the Nation.

- **Multi-year cooperative**
  - FDA
  - State food regulatory partners.
What is a RRT?

- There are currently 24 RRTs nationwide.
RRT History

• The RRT program was created to address the need for improved, integrated rapid response to food and feed emergencies.

• Multi-Agency Collaboration
  • Between disciplines
  • Between RRTs
  • Incident Command System (ICS) principles
Texas Rapid Response Team

Multiple agencies make up the TRRT and work together to provide preparedness, prevention, and timely response to food and/or feed related disasters that may affect the citizens of Texas.
TRRT Organizational Structure

The TRRT follows **Incident Command System** principles

- What is an Incident Command System (ICS)?
  - ICS is a standardized on-scene incident management concept designed to allow responders to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of any single incident or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. -OSHA
TRRT Organizational Structure

COMMAND STAFF

- Unified Command DSHS/FDA
  - Public Information Officer
  - Safety Officer
  - Liaison Officer

GENERAL STAFF

- Operations Chief
  - Animal Food and Feed Branch
    - Food Branch
  - Human Food Branch
  - Group 1 Group Lead
  - Group II Group Lead
- Planning Chief
  - Situation Unit
  - Resources Unit
- Logistics Chief
  - Demobilization Unit

Agency Representatives
- State Agency Directors
- FDA District Director
- FDA Director FERN
Cyclospora 2019
Updated 8/26/2019

Incident Commanders
Kevin Veal (Lead)
Jane Broussard

Operations Section
Lori Woznicki

Planning Section
Tishara Coleman
Davonna Koebrick
Lewis Ressler

Epidemiology Branch
Jonathon Kolsin
Adrienne Fung

Field Team
Ninfa Carreon
Juan Munguia
Samuel Cuevas
Warren Chambers

Documentation Unit
(not mobilized)
TRRT Operations

- There are four phases of the RRT food and/or feed emergency cycle. All four of these phases must be completed in sequence. This cycle is continuous.
Activate vs. Response

- May **activate** for large scale investigations involving food and/or feed and large scale recalls of food and/or feed.
- May **respond** to events with increased potential public risk.
Why activate?
- to prevent both ongoing transmission of disease and similar outbreaks in the future
Activation
Activation

DSHS
OTSC
TDA
FDA
LHDs
Activation
Activation
Activation Triggers

• What triggers an activation?
  • High probability that an adverse food and/or feed related incident exists.
  • Positive pathogen results
  • What is the number of cases?
  • How quickly is the event escalating?
  • Is the event localized, statewide or national?
What happens during an activation?

- What does the TRRT do?
  - Emergency evaluation of food firms and establishments
    - Disaster
  - Traceback/Product tracing
    - Foodborne illness outbreak
Emergency evaluation

- Natural or man-made emergency events
- Ensure that food put in commerce is safe for consumption
Emergency evaluation

- Identify affected areas
- Survey food firms and establishments
- Conduct onsite visit if needed
Traceback

- **Product Tracing**
  Verifying the *records* of a food/feed item from its source to final distribution.

- **Traceback**
  An investigation that starts with the consumer or the point-of-service and traces the distribution of the product back to the source.
Traceback

- Foodborne illness outbreak
  - Confirmed cases
  - Suspect food item
Traceback
Traceback
Traceback

Figure 2: Salmonella Bareilly Traceback (The distribution of the contaminated tuna is outlined in red.)
TRRT
Past Activations and Responses

• 2011 - *Salmonella Agona*
• 2013 – *Cyclospora*
• 2014 – *Cyclospora*
• 2015 – May Weather Incident
• 2015 – *Cyclospora*
• 2016 – *Cyclospora*
• 2017 – *Cyclospora*
• 2017 - Hurricane Harvey
• 2018 – *Cyclospora*
• 2019 - *Cyclospora*
Cyclospora
Past Activations and Responses

2012 - 44/9 cases

2013 - 351/270 cases

2014 - 200/130 cases

2015 - 316/184 cases
Based on epidemiological evidence collected by affected domestic states, the CDC and traceback evaluations conducted by FDA, *cilantro from the state of Puebla, Mexico was implicated as the vehicle* for some of the U.S. cyclosporiasis infections in 2013 and 2014. In addition, after cyclosporiasis illnesses from the 2013 outbreak were linked to cilantro from Puebla...
Cyclospora Post Import Alert

2016
• DSHS received 120 reports of cyclosporiasis
• 48 domestically acquired cases

2017
• DSHS received 281 reports of cyclosporiasis
• 174 domestically acquired cases

2018
• DSHS received 349 reports of cyclosporiasis
• 225 cases domestically acquired cases
Activation In Depth
Cyclospora 2019

- DSHS received 632 reports of cyclosporiasis
  - 438 domestically acquired cases
- Several clusters identified
- Different suspect vehicles

**Reported Cases of Lab-Confirmed, Non-Travel Associated Cyclosporiasis Cases with Illness Onset on/after May 1, 2019, Texas (n=438)**

![Graph showing the number of cases by onset date](image-url)
Activation In Depth
Cyclospora 2019
Outbreak-Related Cyclosporiasis Cases in Texas, 2019*

Case Count by Cluster:
- Juice establishment - 13 cases
- Mexican restaurant - 29 cases
- Mexican restaurant - 3 cases
- Seafood restaurant - 27 cases
- Mexican restaurant - 5 cases
- Mexican meat market - 9 cases
- Mexican restaurant - 3 cases

* As of 9/25/2019

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Infectious Disease Control Unit.
Prepared: September, 2019
(n=91)
Activation In Depth
Cyclospora 2019

**Cyclospora 2019**
Dallas Metroplex
9/4/2019
Pathogen: Cyclospora
Vehicle: Cilantro
Exposure Date: 6/26
Texas Rapid Response Team

- **POSA:** Irving, TX
- **Dist A:** Dallas, TX
- **Dist B:** McAllen, TX
- **Dist C:** McAllen, TX
- **Dist D:** Puebla, Mexico
- **Dist E:** Jalisco, Mexico
- **Dist F:** Puebla, Mexico
- **Dist G:** Hidalgo, TX
- **Dist H:** Tlaxcala, Mexico
Cyclospora in Texas

Outbreak Related Cases of Cyclosporiasis in Texas from 2013-2019

- 2013: 270 cases
- 2014: 130 cases
- 2015: 184 cases
- 2016: 48 cases
- 2017: 174 cases
- 2018: 225 cases
- 2019: 438 cases

IMPORT ALERT 24-23

Outbreak Related Cases of Cyclosporiasis
Cyclospora in the U.S.

Outbreak Related Cases of Cyclosporiasis in U.S. from 2013-2019

- 2013: 631 cases
- 2014: 304 cases
- 2015: 546 cases
- 2016: 384 cases
- 2017: 1065 cases
- 2018: 2299 cases
- 2019: 1907 cases

Import Alert 24-23
What’s Next?

- FDA Food Testing
- CDC Sequencing Project
In the meantime…

Deactivation Phase

Surveillance Phase

Activation Phase

Alert Phase
In the meantime...

- TRRT is still active while not activated
  - Surveillance phase
    - Monitor current outbreaks
  - Networking/collaboration
    - Conferences
    - Calls

2018 RRT Face-2-Face Meeting
In the meantime…

• TRRT is still active while not activated
  • Training
    • Traceback course
    • Online training
    • Webinars
  • Exercises
    • ICS
    • Tabletops
  • Outreach
    • Relationship building
      • LHDs
      • Industry
The **TRRT Response Operating Guidelines (ROG)** outlines policies for TRRT preparedness, activation, operation, and deactivation.

- Definitions
- TRRT members
- Policies and responsibilities
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Reviewed and revised as needed
FoodSHIELD is the communication platform for the TRRT.

- Provides public and private food and agriculture sectors an online platform to coordinate their efforts in a secure and efficient way.
- Serves as the primary communication and coordination tool during all phases of a the TRRT emergency cycle.
FoodSHIELD

TRRT Local and Regional Partners

Latest Activity

Post a message or file from here...

1/18/17
Tisha Coleman replaced Version 1.0 of Updated ROG 05242016.docx
Read Current Version  Download Current Version

7/22/16
Catherine Thibodaux posted a document At Tolbets From Gordon Food Service 05182016_07152016.pdf
Read  Download Current Version 1.0
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