FOOD SECURITY UPDATE:
The Food Industry’s Response to Ensuring Food Security and Safety

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Presentation Outline

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September 11, 2001

“The Morning Without Reason”

Events of September 11 and beyond have focused attention on potential terrorist threats to our nation’s food supply.
Consensus

The potential for the food supply being a target or tool of terrorism can no longer be viewed in hypothetical terms.
Prior to September 11, 2001...

The food industry has had a long history of dealing with threats

• Intentional food tampering
• Inadvertent contaminants
• Foodborne disease outbreaks

BUT...
Now dealing with the unthinkable...

Widespread, intentional contamination of the food supply!
Potential Outcomes

- Sickness
- Death
- Food production and delivery systems thrown into chaos
- International trade disruption
- Businesses impacted
- Companies destroyed
The food industry takes the issue of terrorism and the food supply - Food Security - VERY SERIOUSLY!
So what is Food Security?
A Security Primer

• The Basic 3 P’s of Protection:
  – Personnel
  – Product
  – Property
Relationship between Security and Threats

“Protect to Prevent”
So what is Food Security

- Also focuses on the basic 3 P’s of protection:
  - Personnel
  - Product
  - Property
Food Security

- Protecting Personnel
- Protecting Product
- Protecting Property
Food Security

• Protecting Personnel

• Protecting Product
  – Food Safety

• Protecting Property
NFPA’s Security Philosophy

Food Security ≠ Food Safety
Food Security vs Food Safety
The Basics...

- Not synonymous with food safety
  - Disciplines and their underpinnings are different
  - Expertise and experience are different

- Food security serves as the umbrella under which food safety operates
NFPA’s Security Philosophy

Food Security ≠ Food Safety
Food Security vs Food Safety
The Basics… (cont’d)

• Basic distinction:
  – Food Security deals with intentional threats
  – Food safety deals with accidents

• cross contamination, process failures
Food Security vs Food Safety
The Basics… (cont’d)

- Differentiation based upon:
  - the accidental vs the intentional;
  - the chance occurrence vs the diabolical intent
  - the unplanned vs the deliberate

These are immensely important distinctions to our industry—particularly as it relates to our management and prevention practices.
So What is the Common Denominator Between Food Security and Food Safety

Prevention

The intentional threat (Food Security)

The accidental occurrence (Food Safety)
So What Was/Is The Food Industry’s Response to Ensuring Food Security and Safety?
NFPA’s Goal

• Assist the industry to organize/conduct appropriate tailored food security assessments.
NFPA Actions

- September 12, 2001 -- conference call with our members and FDA
- Findings:
  - Need to assess/evaluate current practices
  - Identify weaknesses in current systems
  - Implement appropriate/effective controls
NFPA’s Philosophy on Security

Though security is critical to our business, it is also inconvenient. However, the inconvenience should not prevent us from doing our jobs.

Ensuring security should not result in business paralysis.
Security is incremental in nature—
Even small gains in security awareness and practices contribute to the total security of a company/organization/nation.
Our Strategy on Food Security

• Communication, Consultation, Coordination, Collaboration and Cooperation (5 C’s)

• Provide members with information that they can adapt and utilize.

• Provide the food industry with information that each industry segment can adapt and utilize.
Alliance for Food Security

- Organized within two weeks
- Food industry, government and others
- Proactively seek and share information
- More than 100 organizations
Our goal in establishing the Alliance has been clear from the start...
To share any and all procedures, practices and tools among Alliance members, in order to prevent -- to the extent we can -- threats from occurring to the safety of our nation’s food supply.
Security Assessment Guide and Checklist

- The Threat Exposure Assessment and Management (TEAM) Process
- “Security Checklist of Questions”

Together, these two documents can be used by every segment of the food chain to ensure the necessary security steps and controls are in place.
Next Steps…

- Identifying potential contaminants/agents—risk assessments
- What’s credible
- Research Roadmap
  - Who’s doing what
  - What’s missing (research gaps)
  - Tools to identify/control
- Training
  - Guidance document/Manual
  - “Exposure Assessment Critical Prevention Points” (EACPP)
Summary

• NFPA and the Alliance for Food Security is working to effectively enhance and augment our food security systems.
  – Sharing information
  – Establishing key contacts
  – Enhancing the 5 C’s among all stakeholders
**Summary**

- Communications -- the goal of NFPA and the Alliance is to raise awareness of the food security issue, but not heighten consumer anxieties
  - Media
  - Government (ensure effectiveness)
We all need to continue to work together!
(Government, Academia, Public Health, Industry, Media, Consumers, Others)