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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact DEC: Kimberly Stryker, Food Safety and Sanitation, (907) 269-7628

Contact Municipality of Anchorage: Chris Tofteberg, Food Safety and Sanitation (907) 343-4725

Health Alert: Botulism Poisoning Warning Expanded DEC warns consumers not to eat certain brands of chili, other canned products; dog food also being recalled

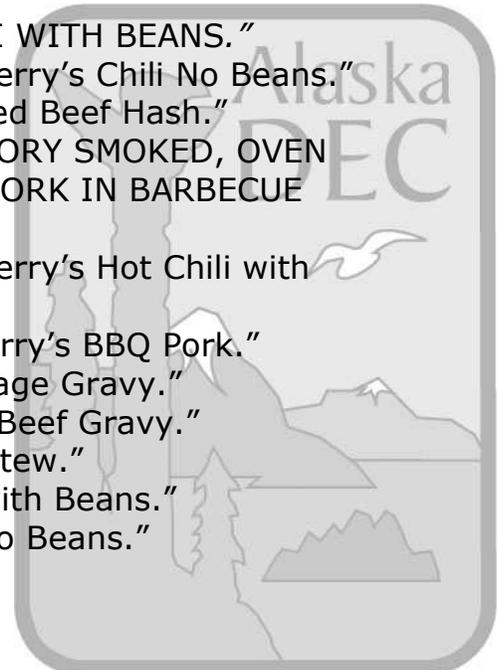
In a July 20th news release, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a cautionary warning to consumers about canned meat products that may contain *Clostridium botulinum*. Processing malfunctions at Castleberry's Food Company in Ga., have existed longer than initially estimated, prompting the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand the warning. The expanded recall now includes Alaska. DEC and Municipality of Anchorage food safety officials are working with Alaska's large as well as small retailers throughout the state to verify that product is removed from their shelves.

The problem was initially discovered during an investigation into illnesses in Indiana and Texas. The investigation led to a recall by FDA of three types of meatless hotdog chili sauce. That recall is now being expanded to include more products produced at the plant (both meatless and some containing meat) that might still be in commerce. There have been no reports of illness from consumption of the products listed in this news release.

Consumers who have any of the products listed below are urged not to eat them, but rather return or dispose of them. Consumers should not use these products even if they do not look or smell spoiled. Consumers with these products should dispose of them by double bagging in plastic bags that are tightly closed before being placed in a trash receptacle for non-recyclable trash outside of the home. Additional instructions for safe disposal can be found at: www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism_faqs.htm

In addition to the meatless hotdog chili sauce initially recalled (for more details on the initial recall, see FDA's recall at: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01670.html>), the following products are subject to recall:

- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Austex Beef Stew."
- 15- and 19-ounce cans of "Austex Chili with Beans."
- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Austex Chili No Beans."
- 12-pack of 19-ounce cans of "Austex Chili No Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Best Yet Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Best Yet Corned Beef Hash."
- 15-ounce cans of "Big Y Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Big Y Chili no Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Big Y Corned Beef Hash."
- 15-ounce cans of "Black Rock Chili with Beans."
- 24-pack of 10-ounce cans of "Bryan Hot Dog Chili Sauce."
- 24-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Bryan Corned Beef Hash."
- 24-pack of 10-ounce cans of "Bryan Chili No Beans."
- 24-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Bryan Chili No Beans."
- 24-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Bryan Chili with Beans."
- 10-ounce cans of "Bunker Hill Chili no Beans."
- 10-ounce cans of "Bunker Hill Chunky Chili no Beans."
- 10-ounce cans of "Castle Chili No Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Castleberry's Beef Stew."
- 15-ounce cans of "Castleberry's Brunswick Stew."
- 10-ounce cans of "Castleberry's BUNKER HILL, ORIGINAL Chili NO BEANS."
- 15-ounce cans of "Castleberry's CHILI WITH BEANS."
- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Castleberry's Chili No Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Castleberry's Corned Beef Hash."
- 10-ounce cans of "Castleberry's HICKORY SMOKED, OVEN ROASTED, WITH SKINS, BARBECUE PORK IN BARBECUE SAUCE."
- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Castleberry's Hot Chili with Beans."
- 10- and 14.5-ounce cans of "Castleberry's BBQ Pork."
- 10-ounce cans of "Castleberry's Sausage Gravy."
- 10-ounce cans of "Castleberry's Chip Beef Gravy."
- 15-ounce cans of "Cattle Drive Beef Stew."
- 15-ounce cans of "Cattle Drive Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Cattle Drive Chili no Beans."



- 15-ounce cans of "Cattle Drive CHILI WITH BEANS."
- 8-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Cattle Drive Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Cattle Drive Chicken Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Firefighter Chicken Chili."
- 15-ounce cans of "Firefighter Chicken Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Firefighter Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Firefighter Chili no Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Food Club Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Food Club Corned Beef Hash."
- 15-ounce cans of "Georgia Hash."
- 10- and 15-ounce cans of "Goldstar Chili."
- 15-ounce cans of "Goldstar Tex Mex Chili."
- 15-ounce cans of "Great Value Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Great Value Hot Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Kroger Beef Stew."
- 15-ounce cans of "Kroger Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Kroger Chili no Bean."
- 15-ounce cans of "Lowe's Chili no Bean."
- 15-ounce cans of "Lowe's Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Lowe's Corn Beef Hash."
- 15-ounce cans of "Meijer Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Meijer Chili no Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Meijer CORNED BEEF HASH."
- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Morton House Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Morton House *Corned Beef Hash*."
- 10- and 15-ounce cans of "Paramount Hot Dog Chili Sauce."
- 15-ounce cans of "Paramount Chili no Bean."
- 15-ounce cans of "Paramount Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Piggly Wiggly Chili with Beans."
- 10- and 15-ounce cans of "Piggly Wiggly Chili no Bean."
- 15-ounce cans of "Piggly Wiggly Corned Beef Hash."
- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Prudence Corned Beef Hash."
- 15-ounce cans of "Southern Home Chili with Beans."
- 10- and 15-ounce cans of "Southern Home Chili no Bean."
- 15-ounce cans of "Southern Home Corned Beef Hash."
- 10-ounce cans of "Steak N Shake Chili."
- 15-ounce cans of "Thrifty Maid Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Thrifty Maid Corned Beef Hash."
- 15-ounce cans of "Triple Bar Chili with Beans."
- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Triple Bar Chili with Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Triple Bar Chili no Beans."
- 12-pack of 15-ounce cans of "Triple Bar Chili no Beans."
- 15-ounce cans of "Value Time Chili with Beans."



Each can label or can end bears the establishment number "EST. 195" inside the USDA seal of inspection. The canned meat products were distributed nationwide

Dog foods may also be contaminated, including those listed below:

Natural Balance Eatables dog food varieties (15 oz cans):

- Irish Stew with Beef Dog Food
- Chinese Take Out with Sauce with Vegetables and Chicken Dog Food
- Southern Style Dumplings with Gravy with Chicken and Vegetables Dog Food
- Hobo Chili with Chicken Pasta Dog Food

Botulism is a rare but serious paralytic illness caused by a nerve toxin. Symptoms of botulism include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness. The illness can cause paralysis, respiratory failure and death. Symptoms usually occur from 18 to 36 hours after eating contaminated food. Anyone who is experiencing any of these symptoms should contact a physician. For additional information about botulism, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site at www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism.htm.

Consumers with questions about the recall should contact 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.

Consumers with food safety questions can "Ask Karen," the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at AskKaren.gov. The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

For additional information from Castleberry, including refund information, please visit the Castleberry website at: http://www.castleberrys.com/news_productrecall.asp

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