



Caramel Apples

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The Problem

- *Listeria monocytogenes* outbreak
- Caramel apples identified as food item of interest
- CA had one death associated with the outbreak

Samples

- Hundreds of samples collected
 - Environmental swabs
 - Ingredients
 - Plastic clam shell packaging
 - Wooden sticks

Actions

- Recalls
- Environmental investigation at Happy Apples
- Retail Surveillance Sampling

Critical Factors

- Holding temperature requirements
- Stick vs. no stick

Teachable Moment

- Firms do not understand:
 - how we perform outbreak investigations
 - how we come up with their company or product
 - investigation is as much about “ruling out” as “ruling in”

We are good at:

- Identifying the problem
- Identifying the firm and product
- Initiating action (recall, embargo, etc.)
- Getting the issue resolved for THAT firm

Sharing with Industry

- Web postings?
- Fact sheet?
- Dear Industry letters?
- Presentations at conferences?
- Meetings with industry associations?
- Other???

Contact Information

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