



Environmental
Health

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Advisory	Recall of Kowalke Family Brand Alfalfa Sprout Products
Principal Investigator:	Jerry LeMoine
Date:	March 20, 2008
Release #:	2008- Sprouts-2

INCIDENT

- Dr. Mark Horton, Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), today warned consumers not to eat Kowalke Family brand alfalfa sprout products because they may be contaminated with *Salmonella*, which can cause serious illness. The firm is voluntarily recalling these products because the alfalfa sprout seeds used to produce them were found to be contaminated with *Salmonella*. No illnesses have been associated with Kowalke Family Sprout Inc. alfalfa sprouts.
- Consumers, especially young children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems, are susceptible to serious infection when exposed to *Salmonella*.
- Kowalke Family Sprouts Inc. of Los Angeles products are distributed to retail stores, including stores in the Farmer's Markets food chain, Whole Foods and Gelson's Supermarkets.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTION

- There are no known retail outlets within Santa Cruz County that have been identified as handling any of the recalled products to date. However, there may be retail stores in neighboring counties that have received the recalled products. Santa Cruz County residents who may have visited any of these stores should carefully check any food products they may have purchased. Environmental Health will continue to monitor this recall in case any local retail outlets should be identified through this ongoing recall process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division is warning consumers not to consume the recalled product. Santa Cruz County consumers in possession of this recalled product should contact the local Environmental Health office at (831) 454-2022.

INFORMATION

- All alfalfa, onion/alfalfa mix, cauliflower/alfalfa mix and dinner salad mix products are affected by the recall. Alfalfa products are in 4-ounce, 8-ounce, 1-pound and 5-pound packages. The dinner salad is in



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- **Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- **Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

an 8-ounce package. The cauliflower/alfalfa combo and onion/alfalfa mix are in 4-ounce packages. The products in question have sell-by dates from March 4 through March 26. The codes are located on the front label of the packages.

- *Salmonella* is an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. Consumers who have eaten this product and are experiencing the above symptoms should consult their health care provider.
- Consumers with questions may contact Kowalke Family Sprouts Inc. at (310) 636-1924. Further information, including pictures of the products, is available at www.cdph.ca.gov

www.santacruzhealth.org/alerts for informational updates and other alerts