

Food Security to Food Defense

- After a few years, the term Food Defense was used rather than Food Security
 - Food Security or Food Insecurity = terms describing hunger problems/ accessibility to food.
 - Food Defense and Food Protection were better terms to describe keeping the food safe from intentional contamination.
 - In 2003 Governor Easley signed an executive order officially establishing the NC Food Safety and Defense Task Force



Threat Begins to Wane

- No food chain attack has occurred as yet
- Many of us realize the committee is helpful for the “everyday” tasks in our jobs
- An Executive Committee is formed with representatives from member agencies, universities, and industry
- Formal meeting procedures are put in place and the task force begins to meet every other month
- FERP – A state Food Emergency Response Plan was finalized by members of the task force





Sunday April 17, 2011 Dunn, NC







Disaster Recovery

- Meeting with NCDOA/ USDA on site at the distribution Center
- Collaborative approach to product disposition
 - Building inspection
 - Product inspection plan with written confirmation
 - “Keep us posted, but do not wait for us...We know you are doing the right thing...”

4 Months Later



DELHAIZE AMERICA

Rebuilding plus Expansion



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How has Food Lion/Industry benefited?

- Given a stronger voice in regulatory process
- Opportunities to build stronger relationships
- Mutual Respect for the jobs that we each do
- Trust

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NC Food Safety and Defense Task Force - Today

- 25+ organizations from Government, Academia, Private Sectors participate
- Full Task Force meets 6 times annually in Jan, Mar, May(conference), July, Sep, & Nov
- Executive Committee meets 6 times annually on opposite months
- Supported by \$10,000 FDA Grant

- Has held 5 Annual Food Safety and Defense conferences with attendees from government, industry and academia. Speakers this year included listeria and norovirus researchers, an epidemiological investigation panel, and multiple presentations on the impact of FSMA in the state. Themes change from year to year. 80-120 attendees each year.

- Many members and agencies of the task force provided food safety guidance and monitoring of major national events held in the state – Democrat National Convention @ Charlotte in August 2012 and US Golf Open @ Pinehurst in June 2014.
