

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Recall Notice - Frankfurters Recalled Because of Listeria Contamination

(Las Vegas, Nev. – October 29, 1999) – The Clark County Health District has determined that frankfurters being recalled by Marathon Enterprises, Inc., for possible contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria, were distributed in Clark County. The East Rutherford, N.J. company is voluntarily recalling all skinless beef frankfurters produced at one of its three plants, Establishment 8854 in Bronx, N.Y. At this time there have been no reported cases of listeriosis, linked to this recall, in Clark County.

Health District officials determined that the frankfurters were distributed in Clark County through the vendor Sabratt to Lucky Supermarkets. These establishments have pulled the product off their shelves. Consumer who may have purchased this product prior to the recall should check their freezers and return frankfurters from this vendor to the store where it was purchased.

The company began recalling franks suspected of being contaminated on October 13, 1999. Further testing of frankfurters from other production dates prompted the expansion of the recall. The plant involved, Establishment 8854, closed

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voluntarily on October 14, and no additional product has been produced or shipped from that plant. The recall includes all 16-ounce and five-pound packages of “Sabrett” and “Western Beef” brand Skinless Beef Frankfurters with “EST 8854” inside the USDA seal of inspection.

Consuming contaminated food can cause Listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease. Listeriosis can cause high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness and nausea. The disease can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as serious and sometimes fatal infections in those with weak immune systems – infants, the frail or elderly, persons with chronic disease, HIV infection, or those taking chemotherapy. Health people rarely contract listeriosis.

Currently, there is not a definitive link between the illness and this product, according to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the Department of Agriculture. The FSIS is working with the Centers for Disease Control and the involved states to determine if there is a link between this product and a listeriosis outbreak in areas where the product has been distributed.

Anyone concerned about the illness should immediately contact a physician. For more information regarding this recall call the Environmental Health Division of the Clark County Health District at (702) 383-1251.

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