



Utah RAPID RESPONSE Team

Human and Animal Food

Official Newsletter of the Utah Rapid Response Team (URRT)

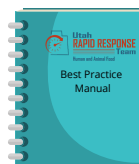


Yearly Review

URRT highlights throughout 2021:

1st Quarter

January: The URRT is a part of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11. At the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) meeting the URRT and ESF 11 gave a presentation on ESF 11 operations and activities. The URRT also focused on writing three sections (epidemiology, environmental health, and animal feed) for the URRT best practice manual. The capabilities assessment tool (CAT) report, which highlights all activities and activations the URRT was involved in during the previous year, was submitted.



February: The URRT attended the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Conference. Rick Beckstrand, who serves on the MFRPA Board of Directors was on the planning committee for this conference and did an excellent job! The URRT attended the FoodCORE Vision Conference, where we received a high level overview of the capabilities and resources of the FoodCORE project. The flow chart for the URRT app. was also completed.



March: The URRT purchased an incident command structure a.k.a. tent. The tent comes with the capacity for lights, Wi-Fi, ac/heating, flooring, conference calling, and more. This is a huge development within the program and will allow for more efficiency and collaboration across the state when responding to outbreaks involving multiple jurisdictions.



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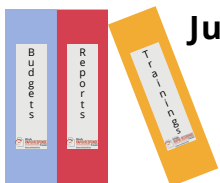
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2nd Quarter

April: The URRT was involved in the Real Water, Inc. acute non-viral hepatitis outbreak. We also attended the NEHA conference and D-SNAP training. These conferences and trainings provide the URRT with many topics to enhance our program and present opportunities to network with others across the country. The Food Safety Task Force (FSTF) is currently under the URRT. Our first first meeting of the year for FSTF was in April. The FSTF agenda had a panel on transitioning out of COVID that included industry, UDAF, and LHD representatives, legislative impacts, business COOP, the great shake out, and shopper history in solving outbreaks.



May: The URRT held an exercise with their new tent, all of our equipment to date, and showcased our trailer that now has the URRT logo on it! We also conducted our first hybrid steering committee meeting. The goals of the meeting and exercise were accomplished with a few takeaways to make it better. Thank you to all those who participated. This tent will allow us to set up a mobile command post in any location! We also had the opportunity to participate in two FDA trainings, which were ER220 traceback training and ER 324 Epi Ready.



June: The URRT grant year is July 1-June 30. During the month of June the URRT was busy with end of year reporting and planning for the next year.

Subscribe

If you would like to receive the URRT Newsletter send an email to Talisha Bacon at tbacon@utah.gov.

Steering Committee

Talisha Bacon
URRT Coordinator

Thayne Mickelson
URRT Director

FDA

Holly Miller (Primary)
Travis Jensen (Alternate)

LHD

Michelle Cooke

UDAF Manufactured Food
Rick Beckstrand (Primary)

UDAF Animal and Feed
Mark Ashcroft (Primary)
Landen Kidd (Alternate)

UDAF Lab

Brandon Forsyth (Primary)
Kathleen Thorsted
(Alternate)

UDOH Epi.

Delaney Moore (Primary)
Cindy Burnett (Alternate)

UDOH

Mark Jones (Primary)
Willy Lanier (Primary)

UPHL

Kelly Oakeson (Primary)

USDA-FSIS

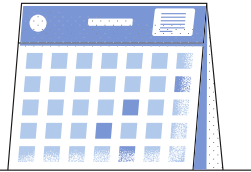
Keith Banta (Primary)

Third Quarter

July: The URRT had a booth at the Utah Public Safety Summit, where we promoted the URRT and taught about food safety. Also, during July the URRT raised their activation from Level 1 "Assessment and Monitoring" to Level 2 "Routine Response" for an STEC O157 outbreak in the community of Rocky Ridge. We worked with multiple partners including UDOH and the Central Health Department.



August: The URRT focused on planning for the upcoming ER 220 traceback training course, the State Fair, and for the Local Health Department Tour. The URRT also had their annual national summer RRT check in. The purpose of the check in is to discuss the URRT cooperative agreement requirements, progress and any questions or concerns. The meeting went well and the national RRT were impressed with the work Utah is doing.



September: This month had three main events:



1st event: The URRT hosted an ER 220 traceback training course. We were able to condense 16 years of training into two days. There were participants from all over the state. The instructors for this course were: Rick Beckstrand, Thayne Mickelson, Talisha Bacon, Willy Lanier, Delaney Moore, and Holly Miller. The main purpose of this course was to increase knowledge of how to conduct a traceback, what the process looks like, and the resources needed to conduct one. This course was a huge success, and highly received by the participants.

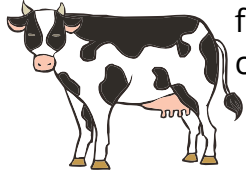
2nd event: The URRT were able to set up their food safety booth, mobile incident command structure (tent), and both trailers at the Utah State Fair for ten days. The tent was all enclosed with two locking doors, flooring, lights, a/c and heating, tables, chairs, coolers, plugs, Wi-Fi, and more. It was widely used and appreciated by all those who worked at the UDAF booth. At the end of the state fair the URRT held their steering committee meeting inside their tent at the state fairgrounds. Thanks to all those who attended and helped take down the tent and booth.



3rd event: The UEHA conference was held at the end of September. There were a couple of URRT steering committee members in attendance and the URRT had their food safety booth on display. Thayne Mikelson received the Lynn Thatcher award, which is an award for those who have made a significant contribution to the field of Environmental Health. Talisha Bacon received the President's award.

Fourth Quarter

October: The URRT attended the Office Of Human and Animal Food –Division IV West Five-State Meeting. The main focus in October was responding to a thallium incident. Thallium was found in beef through a random sample back in the middle of September, a couple weeks later the URRT was called for support on the incident. Throughout October the URRT worked with Dr. Taylor, the URRT steering committee members, animal industries, UPHL, UDOH, UDAF Lab, FDA, Bear River Health Department, and many other partners on finding out how thallium got into the beef. There were hundreds of samples taken, and the source is still unknown. Due to the quick action of everyone involved the carcasses were destroyed and the meat never made it to commerce.



November: The URRT hit it hard with the Local Health Department (LHD) Tour. We visited nine health departments, including all the rural health departments and two state agencies. The rest will be completed in 2022. The purpose of the tour is to educate the LHDs about the URRT, let them know of other resources across the state, to showcase the mobile abilities the URRT has in responding to foodborne outbreaks, and to provide training. One of the main messages we want to get across is the URRT has resources that are here to support, assist, and benefit the LHDs at the state level.



The URRT assisted ESF 11 and participated in a week-long FEMA Region 8 exercise titled Wasatch Range Earthquake Response Plan Rehearsal of Concepts Exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to familiarize attendees with the plan that focused on the first 30 days in response to a catastrophic earthquake on the Wasatch Fault. The exercise focused on the food, water, and sheltering, transportation, and health and medical lifelines.

December: The URRT participated in a week long NIMS ICS All-Hazards Planning Section Chief Course E/L 0962. The National RRT Conference was held this month with the theme Recipe for Response Success. Utah had 28 people in attendance! At the conference the URRT presented on establishing local health partnerships and Dr. Kelly Oakeson from the Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) was a part of the Whole Genome Sequencing Panel. Thank you to everyone who helped with the team photo, video, poster, and presentations. The Office of Regulatory Affairs Honor Awards were also sent this month. The following URRT members received awards:



- Group Recognition Award- 2020 Rapid Response Team Meeting Planning Committee: Talisha Bacon, Willy Lanier, and Holly Miller
- Leveraging Collaboration Award- Utah Earthquake Firm Assessment Team: Talisha Bacon, Rick Beckstrand, Cole Dalton, Dave Gunnell, Holly Miller, Sara Sherman, Rich Steiner and Stu Strock

Congratulations to all award recipients!

2021 URRT Steering Committee Accomplishments

- Activations
 - Real Water Outbreak
 - Costco Meatloaf
 - Rocky Ridge Outbreak
 - Thallium Incident
- Committees
 - Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP)
 - Food Security Task Force- Legislative sub-committee
 - High Volume/ DEUF Sampling Water workgroup
 - National Go-Kit Manual Revision
 - National RRT Conference Planning Committee
 - Utah Environmental Health Association Board
 - Disaster Discovery Center Board
 - NEHA Leadership Academy
- Conferences
 - FoodCORE Vision Conference, Virtual
 - Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting, Virtual
 - National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Conference, Virtual
 - D-SNAP Conference, Virtual,
 - Utah Public Safety Summit- Davis, Utah
 - Utah Environmental Health Association (UEHA) - Wendover, UT
 - Office Of Human and Animal Food –Division IV West Five-State Meeting, Virtual
 - RRT C2C: Recipe for Response, Virtual
- Equipment/Technology
 - Incident command structure (Tent)
 - Portable conference phone with wifi
 - URRT logo on trailer and tent
 - URRT retractable banners
- Meetings
 - URRT Steering Committee
 - Food Safety Task Force Meetings
 - FoodCORE Meetings
- Presentations
 - “ESF 11 Operations and Activities”- State EOC
 - “Whole Genome Sequencing for Foodborne Pathogens” by Dr.Kelly Oakeson- Food Safety Task Force
 - “Whole Genome Sequencing Panel”- Dr. Kelly Oakeson, RRT C2C Conference: Recipe for Response
 - “Establishing Local Health Partnerships”- RRT C2C Conference: Recipe for Response
- Programs the URRT Manages
 - Food Safety Task Force
 - NEARS
- Projects
 - URRT Best Practice Manual
 - URRT App
- Reports
 - Grant reports
 - Food Safety Task Force Grant
 - CAT report
 - Mid-year report
 - End of year report
 - In-kind contribution report
- Trainings attended by the URRT
 - ER 324 Epi Ready Training, Virtual
 - ER 220 Traceback Training, Virtual
 - Wasatch Range Earthquake Response Plan Rehearsal of Concepts Exercise- Sandy, UT
 - NIMS ICS All-Hazards Planning Section Chief Course E/L 0962, Virtual
 - RRT National Conference
 - URRT Poster
 - URRT Team Picture
 - URRT Video
- Trainings put on by the URRT
 - Tent set up exercise- UDAF Building
 - Utah Public Safety Summit Booth- Davis, UT
 - ER 220 - Traceback Training- UPHL
 - State fair exercise and booth- State Fair Grounds
 - Local Health Department Tour- Statewide

2021 Awards

- Office of Regulatory Affairs Honor Awards- The URRT members received the following awards:
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 - Leveraging Collaboration Award- Utah Earthquake Firm Assessment Team: Talisha Bacon, Rick Beckstarnd, Cole Dalton, Dave Gunnell, Holly Miller, Sara Sherman, Rich Steiner and Stu Strock
- Utah Environmental Health Association
 - Thayne Mikelson received the Lynn Thatcher award, which is an award for those who have made a significant contribution to the field of Environmental Health and
 - Talisha Bacon received the President's award.

2022 Upcoming Events

- FoodCORE Project Meeting- every 2nd Thursday@ 11am
- RRT Calls- every 4th Thursday @ 12:00pm
- URRT Steering Committee Meeting- every 4th Thursday @ 1pm
- Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting- February 8-12 Virtual
- Food Safety Task Force Meeting- April 13, August 10, November 9
- Food Safety Conference hosted by Food Safety Task Force- April 12-15 @ Thanksgiving Point
- InFORM Conference- April 22-26, Virtual
- Utah Environmental Health Association - May 4-6 @ Kanab, UT
- AFDO Annual Education Conference - June 13-17 @ AZ
- National Environmental Health Association Conference - June 28- July 1st @ Spokane, WA and virtual
- NACCHO 360- July 19-21 @ Atlanta, Georgia

Save the Date

Utah Food Safety Task Force is hosting a



April 12-14, 2022 Thanksgiving Point