

## **Food Defense Fact Sheet for Food Industry**

### ***What is Food Defense?***

Food defense, formerly known as food security, is the means of preventing or eliminating the deliberate contamination of food by biological agents, toxins, chemicals, radiation, or a physical object. Awareness and prevention are the most important aspects of food defense.

### ***How does Food Defense affect my company?***

Threats to the food supply could occur at any level in the food-supply chain. These attacks are focused on a specific food item, process, company, or business. Attacks may be done by a variety of individuals such as: individuals posing as customers, employees/former employees, vendors, competitors, political ideologists, organized terrorist or activist groups, lone “copycat” individuals, criminals, or anyone with an agenda. The motivations for such attacks vary greatly and include, but are not limited to, financial gain, thrill/challenge, prestige, revenge, publicity, chaos, competitive advantage, or political reasons.

A lack in food defense may have devastating repercussions for a company. Food contamination can result in widespread illnesses or even death of the consumer(s), law proceedings, distrust in the product, company, and even the industry. The smallest incident can bankrupt an entire corporation.

### ***How can the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) help?***

In 2002, ISDH entered into a Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism Cooperative Agreement and received bioterrorism funding from the Federal Centers for Disease Control. ISDH conducts food defense vulnerability assessments for Indiana food manufacturers, processors, and distributors. The ISDH Food Protection Program has a Food Defense Program responsible for developing and implementing these assessments and will conduct a free-of-charge food defense vulnerability assessment of your company to provide recommendations to help protect your product from deliberate contamination. Any findings are completely confidential documents under IC 5-14-3-4(19) and are not public record.

Please contact ISDH to schedule your assessment and/or if you have any questions or concerns.

Food Protection Program website: [www.foods.isdh.in.gov](http://www.foods.isdh.in.gov).

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