



USDA announces California ground beef recall due to possible E. coli contamination

By Stewart Doan

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Washington, Jan. 18 – A California meatpacker is recalling approximately 864,000 pounds of ground beef due to possible E. coli contamination, the Agriculture Department announced Monday.

The beef was produced by Huntington Meat Packing Inc. of Montebello, California, and shipped to distribution centers, restaurants and hotels within the state, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) said. An initial problem, in ground beef produced by the plant from January 5 to January 15, was discovered during a regular safety check, FSIS said in a note on its web site.

It said it had received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of the recalled products.

During a follow-up review of the Huntington's records, FSIS inspectors determined additional ground beef products produced and shipped in 2008 to be of concern because they may have been contaminated with E. coli, the agency said. This batch was produced from February 19, 2008 to May 15, 2008. It also had been shipped to California outlets.

"While these products are normally used fresh, the establishment is taking this action out of concern that some product may still be frozen and in commerce," FSIS said.

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