



Know the Hazards...Avoid the Risks

Imminent Health Hazards⁽⁶⁾ can cause contamination to food. It is important that you recognize the hazards and avoid the risk of passing along potentially contaminated food to those in need. If you observe any of these hazards, DO NOT accept the food products!

Examples of Imminent Health Hazards



Vermin such as rodents and cockroaches can easily transmit disease



Rodent droppings found on cans of food or in boxes of food products need to be removed. If the packaging has been gnawed or opened it must be discarded. For canned products, all contaminated surfaces must be thoroughly washed and sanitized

Other Imminent Health Hazards can result from power outages (loss of refrigeration), sewage spills (cross contamination of possible viruses/bacteria with food products) and a lack of potable water. In each case, the health permit will be suspended and it is unlawful for the business to even give away food products under these conditions.



Report any concerns to your organization or consult with the health department if conditions of the food product appear to be less than acceptable. Remember, the recipients of the food may have health conditions that could pose a great threat if any of the foods consumed are subjected to imminent health hazards such as these!

Special points of interest:

Ill Food Workers/Handlers—The Hazard—The DOs and DONTs

- You want to help but do not feel well. DO NOT handle or transport any food products when you feel ill.
 - DO NOT handle any food if you are vomiting and/or have diarrhea.
- Illnesses stemming from these symptoms can be easily spread.
- DO report your illness to your coordinator or supervisor.

