

**LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**TRUCK WRECK PROTOCOL**  
**INVOLVING**  
**FOOD AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS**  
**MAY 2025**

**Distressed Foods & Other Consumer Products**  
*Resulting from a*  
**Transportation Accident or Other Emergency**

Based on the Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services Food & Consumer Safety Section,  
"Guidelines for Handling Distressed Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics in Truck and Train Wrecks Emergency Response  
Procedures." September 5, 2008

This guidance is applicable in any transportation accident involving food, drugs, cosmetics, or other consumer products. The purpose of this guidance is to protect public health and safety by preventing consumers from receiving contaminated food, drugs, cosmetics, and other consumer products.

**APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION**

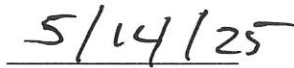
**LCHD Truck Wreck Protocol**

This document is hereby approved for implementation and supersedes all previous editions.



Signature

Dr. Brad Black, MD  
Health Officer



Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

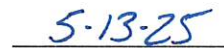
Amy Fantozzi, Chair  
Board of Health

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Signature

Kathi Hooper, Director  
Health Department



Date

## RECORD OF CHANGES

[illegible]

## **Contact information**

### **Lincoln County Health Department 24/7**

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Dispatch: 406-293-4112 / Ext: 0

Lincoln County Emergency Management: 406-334-7194

### **Sanitarian(s) On Call**

Kathi Hooper (24/7) 406-291-1168

Robin Blumberg (24/7) 406-579-2194

### **State of Montana**

Food & Consumer Safety (FCS) during work hours: 406-444-5306 or 2408

FCS Fax Number: 406-444-5055

Communicable Disease Control & Prevention Bureau 24/7: 406-444-0273

MT DES: 406-324-4777 or 4773

## **Truck Wreck Response**

1. **Communication.** Law Enforcement (MHP or local officer) responds to the scene. Law Enforcement notifies MHP dispatch if needed. Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Dispatch will contact local Emergency Management Agency and the county sanitarian. Local DES calls the state DES. State DES calls the DPHHS duty officer, who calls the FCS. FCS will verify that a county sanitarian has been notified. The County Sanitarian is encouraged to call FCS directly, to save time. If after hours, the health officer can call the 24/7 DPHHS duty officer. FCS also contacts other agencies.
2. **Authority and Responsibility.** Almost always, the food products, drugs or cosmetics will be transported across county lines to interstate, making the state responsible for product control. The local health jurisdiction acts as the states authorized agent,

If the products are meat or poultry, then FCS will contact USDA and/or MDOL. As directed by USDA, products will be moved to the nearest inspected facility.

The responsible person/entity is obligated to control their products. Shipping contacts will contain this information (examples are shipping companies, receivers, haulers or drivers). The wrecker service usually takes over traffic control responsibility when law enforcement leaves the scene.

The sanitarian should take steps to track the products and prevent pilferage. Official seals can be attached to containers if measures are needed to stop illegal salvaging or the load required an inspection upon destination arrival (Note: seals are available from FCS or law enforcement). This allows DPHHS to follow-up with the disposition of the sealed load in the receiving jurisdiction.

3. **Documentation.** Collect information as indicated on the "Truck Wreck Report" form (attached). This is easiest to obtain from the responding law enforcement within the hour of the wreck. The wrecker service and responsible person usually make storage arrangements. A "Voluntary

Disposal Agreement” or a “Voluntary Holding Agreement” form is completed by the sanitarian and the responsible person after an assessment of the products are made.

4. **Damage Assessment.** If damage is minimal, meaning the vehicle is not broken open, there is no obvious contamination, and there is no known benefit for a site visit, then products can be moved into a central location for observation and inspection. Pictures are very helpful in determining the extent of potential damage.
5. **Salvageability.** Salvaging requires licensing as of 2004. Currently only one (1) business is licensed; Montana Foodbank Network based in Missoula.

The products are salvageable, if **ALL** of the following are true:

- a. The load did not contain chemicals that could cause contamination;
- b. No products were exposed to dust, dirt, flies, fuels, oils, refrigerants, or other hazardous materials;
- c. Potentially hazardous foods were not above 45° for more than 2 hours;
- d. Fresh products were not wilted or frozen;
- e. Containers are not damaged;
- f. Soft plastic containers were not exposed to chemicals, fumes, or moisture;
- g. Cans are not dented along any seam or significantly dented elsewhere.

Damaged food may be suitable for animal feed, if approval is given by MT Department of Agriculture.

Disposal is necessary if the products are not salvageable or not suitable for animal feed. Often the responsibly person chooses to dispose of the products on their own accord.

6. **Completion.** Fax completed wreck report and signed voluntary disposal or holding forms to FCS at 406-444-5055