



# **State of Georgia**

## **Food Emergency Response Plan**

**Incident Appendix “A”**  
**to the ESF 11 Annex**  
**of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan**

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**June 8, 2018**

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## I. PRIMARY AND SUPPORT AGENCIES

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### Primary Agency:

Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Georgia Department of Public Health

### Support Agencies:

Office of The Governor  
Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Georgia Department of Defense  
Georgia Department of Education  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Georgia Department of Public Safety  
Georgia Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

## II. INTRODUCTION

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The Nation's food supply is at risk to threats of deliberate as well as unintentional contamination at multiple stages in the production, distribution, processing, retail, transportation, and storage cycles. These vulnerabilities and the global scope across which food is distributed make the food supply an attractive target for terrorists.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 set the foundation for the protection of food and agriculture system by identifying it as a critical infrastructure within the nation and establishing a national policy to defend it against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

The majority of food incidents are managed at the local and state level with minimal intervention from agencies other than the primary regulatory authority, which at times may include federal agencies including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Oftentimes during these incidents, these agencies work in a unified command structure. When a food emergency exceeds the capabilities of local and state authorities, federal agencies become involved. In this plan, the term "food emergency" refers to a food incident in which widespread or large-scale deliberate or unintentional contamination of the food supply necessitates a rapid, coordinated response from multiple local and state agencies or local, state and federal agencies that includes industry. The growing threat of widespread, deliberate and unintentional contamination of the food supply necessitates that plans of action be developed for coordinating an effective, multi-agency response in order to prepare, detect, respond to, and recover from such an event. Georgia's Food Emergency Response Plan was developed to: provide a framework for rapidly mobilizing a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional coordinated response; increase the state's ability to rapidly detect and respond to developing atypical food contamination incidents; and decrease the morbidity and mortality caused by such events.

### III. GLOSSARY

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**Adulterated:** means contamination with extraneous ingredients not usually meant for the food product and is not fit for consumption. This can be intentional or unintentional.

**Agroterrorism:** Using the food supply as a method of disseminating WMD, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents. It involves the act of any person knowingly or maliciously using biological agents as weapons against the agricultural industry and the food supply; tampering with food or destroying the food delivery infrastructure; the malicious use of plant or animal pathogens to cause devastating disease in the agriculture sector; a strategic economic weapon causing political, social, and psychological effects; an act that could lead to a disease outbreak, increased food costs, halting of exports, or lost revenue and industry renewal costs (ASTHO). The FBI defines agroterrorism as the deliberate introduction of an animal or plant disease for the purpose of generating fear, causing economic losses, or undermining social stability.

**Consequence Management:** measures to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of terrorism. State and local governments exercise primary authority to respond to the consequences of terrorism; the Federal Government provides assistance as required. Consequence management is generally a multifunction response coordinated by emergency management.

**Crisis Management:** measures used to identify, acquire, and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, prevent, and/or resolve a threat or act of terrorism. The Federal Government exercise primary authority to prevent, preempt, and terminate threats or acts of terrorism and to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators; State and local governments provide assistance as required. Crisis management is predominantly a law enforcement response.

**Food Contamination Event:** the presence in food of harmful chemicals or microorganisms which can cause consumer illness. An “incident” of chemical food contamination may be defined as an episodic occurrence of adverse health effects in humans (or animals that might be consumed by humans) following high exposure to particular chemicals, or instances where episodically high concentrations of chemical hazards were detected in the food chain, and trace back to a particular event.

**Food Defense:** Food defense is the collective term used by the FDA, USDA, DHS, etc. to encompass activities associated with protecting the nation’s food supply from deliberate or intentional acts of contamination or tampering. This term encompasses other similar verbiage (i.e., anti-terrorism (AT), bioterrorism (BT), counter-terrorism (CT), etc.)

**Food Emergency:** any food event that affects larger numbers of people or a larger geographical area or evolve more rapidly than the typical incidents that food safety and public health officials address on a regular basis or that includes a terrorist component. A food incident that reaches a magnitude of injury and/or impact sufficient to necessitate the partial or full activation of the State Operations Center (SOC). A partial activation may or may not require physical staffing of the SOC facility, and may be limited to the formation of a situation working group to assess next steps.

**Food Emergency (cont.):** Partial or full activations of the SOC may require the coordinating agencies to implement and exercise elements of this plan.

**Food Emergency Incident:** any food event that affects larger numbers of people or a larger geographical area or evolves more rapidly than the normal day-to-day operations that food safety and public health officials address on a regular basis or that includes a terrorist component:

- a. Emergency Food Incidents
- b. Large Scale Food Incidents
- c. Routine Food Incidents
- d. Significant Food Incident
- e. Typical Incidents

**Food Event:** A special event is a sporting, cultural, business or other type of unique activity, occurring for a limited or fixed duration (one-time, annual), that impacts by serving or providing food involving the use of, or having impact on, the public realm, this may include a food stand or a food truck/vehicle used at special event activities. Food events may also be a part of a designated NSSE/SE event.

**Food Related Threats:** common etiologic agents to food contamination and foodborne disease. The following are agents of consideration but are not limited to only these agents in a food related event or threat.

Etiologic Agents Associated with Foodborne Disease

- Bacteria (ex. *Escherichia coli* 0157: H7, *Salmonella spp.*)
- Virus (ex: Hepatitis A, Norovirus)
- Parasites (Giardia, Cryptosporidium)
- Toxins (ex: Aflatoxin, *Clostridium botulinum*, Ciguatoxin, Saxitoxin)
- Chemicals (ex. Pesticides, heavy metals, nitrites)

**Food Safety:** a range of food related activities from prevention and surveillance to detection and control (ASTHO).

**Food Security:** the prevention of intentional contamination of food through tampering or other malicious, criminal, or terrorist actions or threats. (Traditionally, food security refers to the adequacy of the food supply in terms of individuals having access to sufficient amounts of nutrition and safe food).

**Intentional Food Contamination Event:** The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) defines intentional adulteration as acts intended to cause widescale harm to public health, including acts of terrorism targeting the food supply. Such acts could cause illness, death, and/or economic disruption of the food supply.

**Unintentional Food Contamination Event:** the accidental or natural contamination of food products during processing or storage by biological, chemical, or physical hazards.

## IV. ACRONYMS

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<b>AAR</b>	After Action Report
<b>ASTHO</b>	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
<b>ADES</b>	Acute Disease Epidemiology Section
<b>AT</b>	Anti-terrorism
<b>BT</b>	Bioterrorism
<b>CBP</b>	Customs and Border Protection
<b>CBRNE</b>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive
<b>CDC</b>	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CI</b>	Critical Infrastructure
<b>CIAA</b>	Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002
<b>COI</b>	Communities of Interest
<b>CONOPS</b>	Concept of Operations
<b>CST</b>	National Guard, 4 <sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team—Weapons of Mass Destruction
<b>CT</b>	Counter Terrorism
<b>CT</b>	Chemical Threat
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Homeland Security
<b>DNR</b>	Department of Natural Resources
<b>DOD</b>	Department of Defense
<b>EMA</b>	Emergency Management Agency
<b>EMAC</b>	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Center
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency (federal)
<b>EPD</b>	Environmental Protection Division (state)
<b>ESF</b>	Emergency Support Function (ESF)
<b>FBI</b>	Federal Bureau of Investigation
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drug Administration
<b>FERN</b>	Food Emergency Response Network
<b>FERP</b>	Food Emergency Response Plan
<b>FOIA</b>	Freedom of Information Act
<b>FRMAC</b>	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
<b>FSMA</b>	Food Safety Modernization Act
<b>GACP</b>	Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
<b>GAFC</b>	Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs
<b>GA RRT</b>	Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team
<b>GA VOAD</b>	Georgia Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster
<b>GBI</b>	Georgia Bureau of Investigation
<b>GFSTF</b>	Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force
<b>GDA</b>	Georgia Department of Agriculture

<b>GDC</b>	Georgia Department of Corrections
<b>GDHS</b>	Georgia Department of Human Services
<b>GDOC</b>	Georgia Department of Corrections
<b>GDOE</b>	Georgia Department of Education
<b>GDPH</b>	Georgia Department of Public Health
<b>GDPH EHST</b>	Georgia Department of Public Health Environmental Health Strike Team
<b>GEMA-HS</b>	Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security
<b>GEOP</b>	Georgia Emergency Operations Plan
<b>GISAC</b>	Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center
<b>GPC</b>	Georgia Poison Center
<b>GPHL</b>	Georgia Public Health Laboratory
<b>GSA</b>	Georgia Sheriff's Association
<b>GSP</b>	Georgia State Patrol
<b>GTA</b>	Georgia Technology Authority
<b>HSIN</b>	Homeland Security Information Network
<b>IA</b>	Intentional Adulteration
<b>IC</b>	Incident Commander
<b>ICLN</b>	Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks
<b>ICP</b>	Incident Command Post
<b>ICS</b>	Incident Command System
<b>IMT</b>	Incident Management Team
<b>JIC</b>	Joint Information Center
<b>JIS</b>	Joint Information System
<b>JOC</b>	Joint Operations Center
<b>LRN</b>	Laboratory Response Network
<b>MAC</b>	Multi-Agency Command
<b>NIMS</b>	National Incident Management System
<b>NRF</b>	National Response Framework, formerly known as the National Response Plan
<b>NSSE</b>	National Special Security Event
<b>OCGA</b>	Official Code of Georgia, Annotate
<b>PCII</b>	Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program
<b>PFGE</b>	Pulse Field Gel Electrophoresis
<b>PIO</b>	Public Information Officer
<b>POC</b>	Point of Contact
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>RFA</b>	Request for Assistance
<b>RCH</b>	Regional Coordinating Hospitals
<b>SA</b>	Situational Awareness
<b>SENDSS</b>	State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System
<b>S-JIC</b>	State Joint Information Center

<b>SOC</b>	State Operations Center
<b>UC</b>	Unified Command
<b>USCG</b>	United States Coast Guard
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USDA FSIS</b>	United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service
<b>USDA VS</b>	United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services
<b>USDHS</b>	Department of Homeland Security
<b>WGS</b>	Whole Genome Sequencing
<b>WMD</b>	Weapons of Mass Destruction

## V. PURPOSE

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The Georgia Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP) provides a plan of action to implement a coordinated and integrated surge response to significant food incidents occurring in Georgia or within Georgia's food distribution channels as result of terrorism, naturally-occurring events, planned events, or accidental contamination. The ultimate goals when responding to food emergencies are the same as in any emergency:

- To limit the loss of life and injury
- Sustain infrastructure
- Lessen the impact on the economy and society

The actions described in this plan focus on operations to be performed in response to food incidents in the state of Georgia.

This plan:

1. Describes multi-agency coordination in planning for high profile and special events whereby food service for participants/attendees is a significant concern;
2. Describes multi-agency coordination and response to widespread or large-scale food incidents in Georgia;
3. Provides planning guidance to prepare for, detect, respond to, and recover from food-related threats, acts of terrorism, and atypical natural and unintentional food contamination incidents in Georgia;
4. Identifies command structures for consequence and crisis management coordination during a food emergency response in Georgia; and
5. Describes the policies, roles and responsibilities, communication, and coordination processes that govern the interaction of public and private entities engaged in incident management and emergency response operations.

## VI. SCOPE

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The Georgia Food Emergency Response Plan (Incident Annex "A") provides guidance for detecting, responding to, and recovering from widespread or large-scale intentional, unintentional food contamination emergencies, and/or planning for special events.

This plan:

1. Provides planning guidance aimed at minimizing the adverse impacts resulting from both deliberate and unintentional food emergencies in Georgia and pre-planning for planned and special events;
2. Describes pre-incident, detection, response, and recovery roles;
3. Describes tiered levels of response based on the magnitude of food incidents; and
4. Emphasizes rapid detection, notification, and sharing of information, including constantly updated situational awareness, between coordinating and support agency officials in regard to emergent food incidents.

The state of Georgia implements the National Incident Management System (NIMS) when responding to and managing multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies and disasters and special event planning.

All state agencies are required to use NIMS. The NIMS process facilitates the setting of priorities, multi-agency cooperation, efficient allocation of resources, and information flow. It is important to remember that NIMS is an operational framework; therefore, agencies have not been assigned new authorities or responsibilities for incidents as a result of this plan (FERP).

The FERP is consistent with the National Response Framework (NRF) to ensure ease and integration of state and federal response. The core capabilities that this document addresses are Infrastructure Systems (Food and Agriculture), Public and Private Services and Resources, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Interdiction and Disruption, Operational Communications, Operational Coordination, Protective Measures, Planning, Public Information and Warning, Screening Search and Detection, Situational Assessment, Supply Chain Integrity and Recovery, and Economic Recovery.

## VII. POLICIES

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The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (*O.C.G.A.*; “the Code”) provides enforcement and emergency powers to state agencies to respond to food emergencies. Section *O.C.G.A.* 2-2-13 provides enforcement powers to the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture to prevent, detect, and respond to acts of bioterrorism, terroristic acts and threats and natural disasters that affect or potentially affect plants, animals, products, or facilities regulated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. *O.C.G.A.* 31-12-2.1 provides the Georgia Department of Public Health with investigative, identification and recovery duties relating to a public health emergency caused by bioterrorism, epidemic or pandemic disease, or a novel and highly infectious agents or toxins. *O.C.G.A.* Code 38-3-51 grants emergency powers to the Governor to direct the Georgia Department of Public Health to coordinate all matters pertaining to the response to and recovery from a state public health emergency.

A “public health emergency” is defined (*O.C.G.A.* § 31-12-1.1) as the occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is reasonably believed to be caused by bioterrorism or the appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin and poses a high probability of any of the following harms:

- (A) A large number of deaths in the affected population;
- (B) A large number of serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population; or
- (C) Widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of people in the affected population.

“Bioterrorism” is defined (*O.C.G.A.* § 31-12-1.1) as the intentional creation or use of any microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or any component thereof, whether naturally occurring or bioengineered, to cause death, illness, disease, or biological malfunction in a human, animal, plant, or other living organism in order to improperly or illegally to

influence the conduct of government, interfere with or disrupt commerce, or intimidate or coerce a civilian population.

This plan supports policies and procedures outlined in the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) and the policies and procedures set forth in the National Response Framework (NRF) – Food and Agriculture Incident Annex and the Terrorism Incident Law Enforcement and Investigation Annex. It also supports ESF 11 local, state, and federal food agency’s response procedures.

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## VIII. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

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The concept of operations (CONOPS) will identify the structures, coordinating agency roles and responsibilities, and communication processes for responding to food emergencies or preparing for special events in Georgia.

### **Conditions**

All agencies identified in this plan as coordinating and supporting agencies should maintain situational awareness while preparing for, responding to, or recovering from food emergencies or planning for, preparing for, and participating in special event activities. Agencies may maintain awareness via the WebEOC, Internet, telephone, teleconference, portable handheld devices, e.g., cell phones, or other means as appropriate.

### **Planning Assumptions**

1. Food emergencies will require a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response that may include the Georgia Rapid Response Team (GA RRT) program members.
2. Multiple locations within the State of Georgia, across state lines, and outside of the boundaries of the United States may be affected, depending on the geographic distribution of the contaminated food product(s).
3. In cases of suspected chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) events in which food is the suspected target, first responders will take the proper precautions to respond safely, be properly outfitted, and receive adequate training in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in line with the Suspicious Substance Protocol prior to handling food suspected of contamination and includes specimen collection.
4. Initially, it may be difficult to determine whether a food incident is intentional, a naturally occurring event, or accidental. It will therefore be important to sample all food products that may feasibly be contaminated and to conduct testing by multiple laboratories in order to quickly reduce uncertainty regarding the identity of the contaminant and the affected food product(s) so that those products may be held or recalled. Coordinated, concurrent testing by multiple laboratories may be important in order to provide both a rapid preliminary analysis and a subsequent confirmation of those preliminary results.
5. Chain of custody will be maintained during sample collection, transport, and analysis.
6. The Food Emergency Response Plan may support coordinated response efforts with the State Animal Response Plans and State Plant Response Plans.
7. Product Disposal Considerations will follow DNR, EPD, EPA, FDA, and USDA guidance.
8. Each Emergency Support Function (ESF) has roles and responsibilities that are more clearly defined in the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP).

## **Incident Detection and Coordination**

Rapid detection of developing food emergencies, coordination, and effective response are critical elements in reducing morbidity, mortality, and property loss caused by food emergencies described within this plan. Emergent food incidents will most likely be detected through the systems in place for discovering food emergencies. Health care providers, laboratories, industry, and consumers may identify instances of food contamination and have a history of reporting these incidents to regulatory authorities. Often these reports initially go through the Georgia Poison Center (GPC). Additionally, through routine notifiable disease reporting, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Acute Disease Epidemiology Section (ADES) may initially identify illness associated with a foodborne outbreak. Finally, regulatory agencies such as the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) may recognize the early stages of a food emergencies through its notification systems. It is therefore anticipated that initial notifications of a food emergency will be communicated to the Georgia DPH and/or GDA, from the local level (i.e. hospitals, District and county health departments, police, emergency medical services, industry, etc.). Regardless of the route of notification, an increase in suspected foodborne illnesses would be treated by ADES as a possible outbreak. An investigation that would include patient interviews, attempts to obtain laboratory confirmation to determine illegal etiology, and other processes outlines in the following document would occur:

[http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/10Steps\\_0.pdf](http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/10Steps_0.pdf)

Physicians, laboratories, and healthcare providers in Georgia are required by law to report Notifiable Diseases/Conditions which include but are not limited to several Category A and B agents, as well as clusters of illness to the County Health Department, District Health Office, or the Department of Public Health's Acute Disease Epidemiology Section (ADES) (Appendix 1). Early recognition of bioterrorist agents may arise from clinician recognition, laboratory report, or hospital overpopulation. Hospital patient loads may be one of the first warning signs of an emergency food incident for several reasons: 1) they normally operate at capacity and most likely would become overwhelmed relatively early and 2) the increase in patients with similar symptoms may send flags. In these cases, hospitals may alert GDPH, GEMA-HS, as well as surrounding hospitals or Regional Coordinating Hospitals (RCHs) relatively quickly to divert patients and acquire additional resources.

Local regulatory officials will remain in charge of food incidents until the situation exceeds their resources/abilities or until a determination is made that the incident is or may be a terrorist event. Due to the extensiveness of the food system involved in special event planning, early considerations should be taken to utilize and implement Unified Command to fully address event needs. During the initial phase of a food emergency, it is anticipated the State response teams, (Type 3 Georgia State IMTs, GDPH, Environmental Health Strike Teams, GA Food & Feed Rapid Response Teams), will work with a local or state level incident commander. Local authorities may request state resources for response assistance by following proper chain of command structures, which may include requests to GEMA at 1-800-TRY-GEMA, or by contacting their local EMA directly. Based on a request for assistance due to overwhelmed local resources, GEMA may activate ESFs 8 and 11, as well as additional ESFs to virtually or physically staff the State Operations Center (SOC), as appropriate, and provide field assistance. In the event that local authorities contact GDA and/or GDPH directly in the case of a food emergency, GDA and GDPH

through their emergency response leads should contact GEMA in order to activate the appropriate ESFs.

For food emergencies that warrant partial or full activation of the SOC, the following ESFs may be implemented:

- ESF 5 (Emergency Management)
- ESF 8 (Public Health and Medical Services)
- ESF 11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources)

Any act or threat of terrorism related to the food supply requires a federal response. State agencies may anticipate that coordination of acts or threats of terrorism related to the food supply to fall under the control of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as described in the Terrorism Incident Law Enforcement and Investigative Annex of the National Response Framework (NRF). The Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC) anticipates receiving credible threat information regarding an event affecting Georgia from the FBI. Timely notification of Public Health ADES regarding credible threat information will ensure that Public Health takes steps to enhance surveillance activities. GISAC will disseminate appropriate portions of that information to other local enforcement agencies and the GPDH, GDA, and GEMA as appropriate.

### **Coordination**

As described in **ESF 5**, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/ Homeland Security (GEMA/HS) is the primary agency to provide support for the overall activities of the State Government for all state disaster management efforts. The contact information for GEMA is 1-800-TRY-GEMA (879-4363). GEMA has primary responsibility to coordinate services essential to:

- Disaster operations
- Ensuring operational readiness among appropriate agencies and organizations
- Facilitating the Governor's request for disaster assistance to the Federal government
- Receiving and channeling any unmet requests for assistance from State and local agencies to ESFs including requests for the 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team WMD lab support
- Supporting infrastructure in the affected GEMA area for prevention, response, and recovery disaster initiatives
- Requesting assistance through 50-state Emergency Management Assistance Compact
- Providing interoperable communications on site and for site to site mobile communications
- Liaising with on-site Incident Command Structure as representatives of state Office of Homeland Security and providing a common operating picture to the State Operations Center
- Request Presidential Declaration
- General Operational Situational Awareness

GEMA/HS Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security, role in detection may include, but is not limited to:

- Receive credible threat information from Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC)

- Disseminate intelligence and credible threat information to coordinating agencies utilizing the State Warning Point, WebEOC, and other information sharing channels
- Inform relevant agencies of changes in threat levels, which are issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:
  - Imminent threat alert – warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorist threat against the U.S.
  - Elevated threat alert – warns of a credible threat against the U.S.

As described in **ESF 8**, the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) is the primary agency in public health emergencies within the state of Georgia. This Emergency Support Function (ESF) supports National Response Framework (NRF) ESF 8 (Public Health and Medical Services) coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Georgia Department of Public Health will lead the outbreak response investigation. GDPH has primary responsibility to coordinate staff, equipment, supplies, and services essential to:

- Detection, investigation and control of diseases and health conditions
- Coordination of Environmental Health Strike Teams
- Coordination and utilization of state, regional, and local epidemiologists in disease surveillance
- Coordination and utilization of environmental health staff in response efforts
- Assess contamination of food and water
- Develop and monitor health information
- Inspection and control of sanitation measures
- Inspection of individual water supplies
- Disease vector and epidemic control
- Laboratory testing of clinical samples, and food samples from restaurants and personal food products
- Facility (hotels, restaurants, and institutions) and shelter inspections
- Recruit, and send samples to, FERN labs

The Georgia Department of Public Health’s role in detection may include, but is not limited to:

- Continuing normal operations consisting of monitoring disease/illness, syndromic surveillance reports, and engaging in active disease surveillance through the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS)
- Monitoring patterns of illness clusters and outbreaks using CDC systems: Palantir, Epi-X, and PulseNet
- Conducting medical surveillance to detect unusual events and key indicators
- Identifying links between cases leading to outbreak detection
- Receiving warnings and alerts from District Epidemiologists, District Environmental Health staff, industry, and the public:
  - Data may come from calls to the Georgia Poison Center and or 866-PUB-HLTH hotlines from healthcare and/or the community
- Recommending control measures when necessary

As described in **ESF 11**, the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) is the primary agency for food emergencies within the state of Georgia. The Georgia Agriculture and Natural Resources Emergency Support Function (ESF 11) supports the National Response Framework (NRF) ESF 11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Principal Federal Officer during an incident will come from USDA. The Georgia Department of Agriculture will lead the product response investigation. GDA has primary responsibility to coordinate activities essential to:

- Identifying the storage and distribution network of implicated foods
- Securing implicated food products
- Facility inspections (dairy, wholesaler, food storage warehouse, red meat slaughter, processing, and retail food operations)
- Laboratory testing of food samples from food establishments
- Oversee operations during threats or incidents of agro-terrorism that threaten natural resources
- Performs commercial food inspections to detect food-borne pathogens
- Collects and coordinates the collection of samples with the GPHL and ensures proper packaging, handling, and delivery of samples to designated FERN laboratories or other approved network labs for appropriate testing
- Coordinates the activities of the Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team (GA RRT)
- Coordinates the recall, tracing, and disposal of adulterated food products
- Provides for the inspection and assessment of food animals, aquaculture, and seafood production facilities and product storage facilities
- Exercises the authority, in coordination with DNR, to close seafood harvest areas during emergency or disaster operations when seafood is affected in a manner that makes it unfit for human consumption
- Coordinates with ESF 13 – Law Enforcement during incidents with suspected or confirmed acts of agro-terrorism
- Coordinates with and supports ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services during acts of agro-terrorism or foodborne illness that threaten life safety
- Provides information sharing and communications with the Georgia Food Safety Task Force (GFSTF) to help reduce risk and vulnerability of the commercial food sector to acts of agro-terrorism

Georgia Department of Agriculture's role in detection may include, but is not limited to:

- Monitoring intelligence information
- Reviewing consumer complaints
- Monitoring routine laboratory testing results of food samples
- Responding to reports of product tampering
- Conducting routine inspections of regulated facilities (dairy, wholesalers, slaughter, food storage warehouse, processors, and manufactured foods and retail food sales facilities)
- Investigates industry reports of positive test results from mandatory finished product testing
- Provides warnings and alerts to industry based on standard operating procedures
- Assisting with Recall Effectiveness checks in coordination with FDA and USDA
- Activating and implementing GA RRT efforts

In the event that a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response to a food incident is required, a Unified Command (UC) may be established to coordinate the response. GDPH, GDA, or GEMA may request the formation of Unified Command; this request may be the result of discussions of the GA RRT or may be a direct request from any of the three affected agencies (GDA, GDPH, or GEMA).

The members who comprise the GA RRT may include the following or their designee:

**GEMA Homeland Security Division**  
**GEMA ESF 11 Liaison**  
**GDA Food Safety Division**  
**GDA Plant Industry Division**  
**GDA Laboratory Division**  
**GDA Inspector General**  
**GDA Emergency Management Division**  
**GDA RRT Program Manager**  
**GDOE Food Defense Program Consultant**  
**GDPH Acute Epidemiology Section**  
**GDPH Laboratory Section**  
**GDPH Food Services Program Manager**  
**GDPH EH Emergency Planner**  
**GDPH WMD Coordinator**  
**GDNR EPD, Drinking Water Program Coordinator**  
**GRWA Member**  
**FBI WMD Coordinator**  
**FDA Emergency Response Coordinator**  
**FERN Coordinators (FDA and USDA FSIS)**  
**USDA Food Safety Inspection Service Investigator**  
**USDA ESF 11 Coordinator**  
**Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) as deemed necessary**

The Unified Command may consist of a scalable, jurisdictional and/or functional group from sector-specific disciplines to include but not limited to: food safety and protection, public health, intelligence and law enforcement, emergency management, security and others as required. The Unified Command may integrate with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, provide logistical support, coordinate resources, and coordinate with Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) at the local, state, and federal levels. The Unified Command is responsible for the operational organization and assignment of response responsibilities according to NIMS.

The UC/GA RRT may utilize the support of the following federal agencies:

- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**
- **Department of Defense (DOD), 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team**
- **US Coast Guard**
- **US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**
- **US Dept. of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**
- **US Food & Drug Administration (FDA)**
- **USDA, Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS)**
- **USDA, Veterinary Services (VS)**
- **United States Department of State**
- **“The Advisory Team,” The Advisory Team for the Environment, Food and Health (CDC, EPA, FDA, and USDA)**
- **Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC)**

The Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center, GISAC (Fusion Center) role in detection may include, but is not limited to:

- Disseminating information to first responders, agencies and organizations that “need to know.” Credible threat information pertaining to the food supply may be disseminated and shared among primary agencies and support partners that need to know, as appropriate. This plan assumes that every effort will be made to disseminate information quickly and effectively to all relevant stakeholders, and that information deemed too sensitive for general dissemination will be redacted or sanitized in a timely manner so as to permit all potential partners to make early and appropriate use of the information
- Serving as the state’s focal point for the collection, assessment, analysis, and dissemination of terrorism intelligence relating to Georgia
- Analyzing and prioritizing credible threat information pertaining to the food supply and sharing actionable knowledge with GEMA and sector specific agencies, as necessary

GISAC is comprised of representatives from the following agencies:

- **Georgia Emergency Management Agency/ Homeland Security (GEMA/HS)**
- **Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)**
- **Georgia Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol (GSP)**
- **Georgia Sheriff’s Association (GSA)**
- **Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP)**
- **Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC)**
- **Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC)**
- **Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)**
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS)**

GISAC partners with other government agencies and the private sector including”

- **Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA)**
- **Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH)**
- **Georgia Technology Authority (GTA)**
- **Private Sector Agencies**

## **Incident Management Communications**

GEMA manages incident communications for the State of Georgia through the WebEOC disaster response coordination system. WebEOC is the state-level tool for information sharing and tracking, situation reporting, and assigning and tracking Requests for Assistance (RFA) during active disasters requiring state-level coordination and assistance. State coordinating agencies and relevant ESFs will use WebEOC system for GEOP or SOC activations to log and track response activities. All records remain within the system once submitted, thereby creating a record of the event.

Other information sharing networks including FoodShield, HSIN Connect, etc. may be utilized during a response. If these additional information sharing networks are utilized, then it is important to ensure data necessary to the response is transmitted to WebEOC to enhance situational awareness.

Incident Command will handle all communication needs related to the operations.

## **Food Emergency Response Levels of Activations**

The Georgia Food Emergency Response Plan (GA FERP) may be activated based on the degree of impact and the geographic area affected. Food incidents with the potential for substantial public health and/or property consequences within the state of Georgia may necessitate partial or full activation of the State Operations Center (SOC) and an immediate multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency response, that may include the use of the Public Health, Environmental Health Strike Teams or the Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team members; such incidents are characterized as atypical food incidents and call for the activation of this plan.

Food emergencies that require the activation of the GEOP may require a State of Emergency Declaration from the Governor. Based on the severity and magnitude of the situation, the Governor may request a Presidential Declaration. The response requirements identified within the plan are tiered based on the conditions and level of activity necessary to adequately respond. The Food Emergency Activation Levels are found on the following page and further describe the operational response conditions. The incident will be raised to a Level 3 Food Emergency warranting an activation only after it is determined that local capabilities have been exhausted or become overwhelmed by the magnitude of the public health and/or property impacts. Cases of suspected terrorism are immediately characterized as a Level 1 Food Emergency, which also warrants activation of the Plan and fall under the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) jurisdiction as the lead working concurrently with food regulatory partners.

As in NIMS, the lead agency remains at the lowest level possible.

## IX. AVAILABLE RESPONSE RESOURCES

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**GDPH, Environmental Health Strike Team (EHST)** The Department of Public Health's Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Sections sustain the Environmental Health Strike Team (EHST) program with supports local EH during a surge in response needs. The EHST program coordinates regional EHS teams consisting of ten, six-person teams within five (5) regions in the state. When requested and approved by their supervisor, they will help support the local Environmental Health workload surge within an affected area during a disaster response. Depending on the event, EH Strike Team members may expedite socioeconomic recovery through the re-opening of restaurants, support EPI investigations, conduct shelter and mass feeding site inspections, sample well water for testing, assist with assessing and mitigating environmental health hazards, such as failing septic systems, disease vectors or other public health concerns.

The **Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force (GFSTF)** is comprised of representatives from the agriculture and public health sectors at the federal, state, and local levels. State and federal laboratories, industry, legislative and consumer organizations, and other institutions are represented as well. The group was formed to strengthen communication and efficiency of response among agencies responding to food, waterborne hazards, and other public health problems. The GFSTF provides a forum for federal, state, and local partners to discuss important topics, develop uniform standards, and establish strong relationships. The GFSTF's local, state, and federal composition is well-suited to disseminate important information to agencies that need to know.

### GFSTF Objectives:

- To identify and discuss food safety and food defense issues in Georgia, as well as relevant national issues
- To foster increased lines of communication between food safety and food defense stakeholders on the local, state and federal level
- To strengthen partnership through relationships and collaborations between stakeholders
- To identify, and inform stakeholders of, upcoming food safety and food defense conference, trainings, meeting and other educational opportunities

**Foodshield** is a web-based tool to support federal, state and local governmental regulatory agencies and laboratories in defending the food supply through web-based tools that enhance threat prevention and response, risk management, communication and asset coordination, as well as public education. FoodShield is a platform utilized by the GA RRT and is a secure tool that may be used to facilitate situational awareness and document/information sharing.

The **GEMA Communications Center** referred to as the **State Warning Point** stands ready to serve as a communications portal for the food emergency alerts as it does for all disasters and emergencies. The State Warning Point is available to receive and disseminate alert warnings to pre-identified State and Federal agency contacts provided on the system. Agencies may contact the State Warning Point/Georgia's State Operations Center at 1-800-TRY-GEMA (1-800-879-4362) or 404-635-7200 to implement the State Warning Point's notification process and initiate a multi-agency response. Information received by the Warning Point system is capable of being rapidly disseminated via pager, telephone, and electronic email. The State Warning Point is the

central mechanism within the state of Georgia to link these organizations together by serving as the platform to rapidly disseminate urgent information to pre-identified relevant response agencies once the system has been alerted of the problem. This rapid dispersal of information reduces the time between incident detection and notification to emergency response agencies within Georgia. The 800 number is available for responding officials to request assistance and to facilitate the allocation of additional resources.

**Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team (GA RRT)** The Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team (RRT) exist to characterize, investigate, mitigate, and conclude foods and feed emergencies as part of a coordinated federal-state-local integrated food safety system. The RRT will respond to incidents of food adulteration and/or misbranding that threatens the health of the citizens of the State in the prevention and investigation of foodborne illness. The RRT will rely upon the Georgia Food Emergency Response Plan, FDA Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards, and the CIFOR Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response as guidance documents.

Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) will serve as a uniform, web-based portal for information management and exchange between Federal, State, Municipal, Tribal, and the Private sectors. HSIN users are vetted through a process of registration, identity verification, and access validation protocols. They can gain access by going through the HSIN Coordinator at GEMA. The information posted to HSIN is unclassified and managed within multiple sector-specific compartments called Committees of Interest (COI). The Agriculture COI may house information related to food emergencies and is intended to foster the coordination of response efforts between agencies and organizations within the Public Health, Agriculture, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, National Guard, and Private Sectors.

**The National Guard, 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) WMD** stands ready to respond to CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive) incidents. In the case of food emergencies, the WMD-CST has the ability to provide rapid food sample collection and characterization under the direction of an Incident Commander/Unified Command. The 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team assists the Incident Commander/Unified Command in providing technical advice on CBRNE operations and in determining the nature and extent of the suspected attack. Rapid sample characterization can result in greater opportunities to hold suspected products prior to the product's distribution to consumers and provide advice to sample characteristics for fixed laboratories. Requests for the National Guard, 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team's mobilization must be submitted through ESF 5.

The **Food Emergency Response Network (FERN)** links state and federal laboratories that are committed to analyzing food samples in the event of biological, chemical or radiological emergencies, including a terrorist attack in this country. The biological section of the FERN has some overlap with the CDC's LRN. FERN consists of testing laboratories for the detection of threat agents in food at the local, state, and federal levels to include USDA, FDA, EPA, CDC, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Defense, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Energy, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and Georgia Department of Public Health. The FERN laboratory network maintains agreements with FERN member laboratories to have samples tested in other states. The FERN provides additional laboratory surge capacity to rapidly identify agents during the onset of atypical food incidents. Simultaneous multi-testing of

suspected samples increases the likelihood of determining the contaminant and decreases the time in which incremental laboratory testing would involve which results in additional lives saved.

**Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)** provides an agreement for interstate mutual aid to coordinate resources and provide assistance across state lines. EMAC is a congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid requests and allows states the ability to augment organic resources which, in turn, decreases additional loss to life and property. ESF 5 initiates EMAC process.

Georgia maintains a **Critical Infrastructure (CI) List** that identifies facilities within the state that meet criteria as critical infrastructure. The primary mission of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program (CIPP) to identify the State's critical infrastructure and enhance the protection of it (as it relates to actual and potential incidents that are man-made and intentional in nature) by assisting CI owner/operators in mitigation efforts through site assistance visits (typically in the form of vulnerability assessments) and access to CI-specific DHS-sponsored training. The CI list and specific CI site information is not openly distributed and is released to a limited number of non-regulatory entities under certain conditions; however, portions of CI-related information can be utilized by GEMA/HS in the State's disaster response. Information submitted is protected under the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program, if submitted based on criteria set forth in the Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002 (CIIA), from:

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA);
- State and local disclosure laws; and
- Use in civil litigation.

Once in place, the Critical Infrastructure List will significantly reduce the time loss in retrieving this information post-emergency and increase the effectiveness of rapid traceback and containment of the entire product. Information that does not meet the CIIA requirements will be destroyed or returned to the owner.

### **Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security State Operations Center**

A food emergency may activate the Food Emergency Response Plan, the Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team (GA RRT), and the State Operations Center (SOC) with most ESFs represented. ESFs that could be implemented during a Food Emergency include:

- ESF 1 Transportation
- ESF 2 Communications
- ESF 5 Emergency Management Services
- ESF 6 Mass Care, Housing and Human Services
- ESF 7 Resource Support
- ESF 8 Public Health and Medical Services
- ESF 10 Hazardous Materials
- ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ESF 13 Public Safety and Security Services
- ESF 15 External Affairs

GDA and GDPH may coordinate investigations with GEMA, USDA, FDA, CDC, and other states affected by the food incident utilizing the Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team Unified

Command Structure. An initial Unified Command may be established between GDPH, GDA, and GEMA. The Unified Command may share information with all agencies and states involved and supply information to Federal agencies leading the outbreak response (Department of Public Health and Human Services) and product response (USDA and FDA) investigations. The Unified Command may expand to include jurisdictional and/or functional representatives from other relevant state and federal agencies and entities based on the situation.

GDA and GDPH personnel may respond to food emergencies based on their standard operating procedures for ESF 8 and ESF 11, provide reports to the unified command, and support corresponding EFSs. GEMA may activate additional ESFs to staff the SOC as required.

In addition to response activities conducted by Federal and State agencies, Unified Command may coordinate communications and response operations with affected states to facilitate an effective multi-state response. The epidemiologic and laboratory investigations may run simultaneously in affected states and may require frequent conference call communications between the CDC, food protection agencies, and public health partners in affected states. GDPH may request laboratory assistance from CDC to determine the source of outbreak, and share and receive case information with CDC and epidemiologists in other affected states. GDPH will relay information back from CDC to the ICP/IMT.

### **State/Federal SOC Response**

#### ***Potential Response Actions from all State Agencies and Federal Agencies under a Unified Command/Situation Working Group in the State Operations Center:***

The State Operations Center or Situation Working Group (or Unified Command, if a command structure has been established) shall consider the following potential response actions (and others as they deem warranted):

- Coordinating and deploying resources
- Releasing unified messages through the Joint Information System (JIS), including situational awareness updates
- Coordinating EOCs (local, state agencies, and federal)
- Requesting the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency
- Requesting Federal Assistance, when necessary

### **Agent/Contamination Identification**

Laboratory confirmation must be timely in order to detect and identify the contaminants and to remove the affected product from the food supply system. Routine testing by regulatory officials and by the private sector may identify some contaminants; however, chemical and radiological contaminants may remain undetected under normal conditions.

GDPH conducts epidemiologic and environmental health investigations at the onset of a suspected disease cluster or other signs of unusual illnesses. The epidemiologic investigation tends to narrow the focus of determining the source of the outbreak and implementing measures to control future illness. GDPH and GDA may coordinate with other State and Federal laboratories (e.g., FERN (USDA/FDA Coordinators), DOD CST, CDC), to pinpoint the source and the agent.

The Georgia Public Health Lab (GPHL) assists the Acute Disease Epidemiology Section (ADES) of GDPH with emergency foodborne illness outbreak investigations by testing for bacteria, viruses, and protozoa in both feces and isolates/cultures that are accepted for diagnostic and reference testing (clinical specimens). In rare cases, food specimens related to an outbreak or illness (environmental specimens) may also be tested by GPHL; however, clinical specimen submittals are desired by GPHL, when feasible. GPHL may receive requests for food sampling by GDA, when additional surge laboratory capacity is required. GPHL also participates in PulseNet (which comprises a nationwide network of public health laboratories performing standardized molecular typing (Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) or Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of bacteria involved in food borne diseases). This network of laboratories share DNA patterns electronically and store these patterns in local jurisdiction and CDC databases.

The GDA laboratory performs food and environmental testing as opposed to clinical specimen testing. The lab has the capability to perform food microbiology, dairy, food chemistry and pesticide residue testing.

GPHL is an active member of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) with biological and chemical testing capabilities. All environmental samples that meet FBI credible threat criteria for a suspicious substance event are screened for agents of bio-terrorism (BT) at GPHL. The GPHL Chemical Threat (CT) laboratory has capabilities to test clinical samples for potential exposure to specific chemical agents.

A complete list of available testing is located at the following link: <https://dph.georgia.gov/lab>

Based on a credible threat, GEMA can release resources to conduct rapid, on-scene sample analyses of suspected foods at the request of the Incident Commander or Unified Command. In instances in which GDA is not responsible for sample collection (i.e. suspected CBRNE contamination), GDA requests that the samples collected be pulled at the point of sample (the site in which the sample is originally located) and split for GDA laboratory submission and testing, when sufficient material is available to do so. Priority food sample submissions and testing should be afforded to the GDA laboratories in Tifton or Atlanta, or both; in addition, subsequent samples should be submitted to additional Federal, State, and/or law enforcement laboratories and analyzed on-site, when feasible.

Coordination calls shall occur with lab managers and operations staff to determine sample and submission criteria. This coordination effort should contribute to the development of the Operational Sampling Plan. Coordination with GDA/GPHL or Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) lab managers needs to occur prior to or at the time of sample collection to ensure that samples submitted are of the quantity and quality required for appropriate lab analysis. It is important to clarify what the lab needs are prior to the samples being submitted. Situational Awareness (SA) should be communicated adequately to address these needs, if known (symptoms and any additional information to fully prepare lab staff for submissions).

During emergency situations it is important to identify the contaminant and the vehicle as rapidly as possible; for this reason, samples may be sent to additional Federal and State laboratories that make up the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) as early as feasible, i.e., concurrently with samples being collected and characterized onsite. GDPH or GDA may request FERN

laboratory support by contacting Southeast Regional Coordinator at 706-546-2357; situational awareness updates should be provided to Unified Command to help ensure adequate coordination is taking place.

FERN has a list of Georgia labs approved by FERN to perform testing for food by classification, please contact the state FERN coordinators for additional information.

Use of the 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team's mobile lab capabilities may be utilized to assist with prompt contaminant identification, both during special event response operations and during suspected chemical/terrorism events. Onsite test results and supplementary information should be shared with the Incident Command and/or Unified Command (or Situation Working Group, if a Unified Command has not yet been established). Lab results from the CST are considered presumptive positive results and the samples will be forwarded for further laboratory analysis and confirmation when necessary.

During state FERP activations requiring food and/or feed or environmental lab submissions, data shall be disseminated per established Notification Protocols. Test results will be provided to the submitting agency or their designee. Data will be supplied to the lab manager of the respective agency and they will share with respective in-house agency representatives/Situation Working Group members/local Emergency Coordinators. Final confirmatory test results from fixed labs may be disseminated via the FERN lab portal or by other means deemed appropriate.

GDPH and/or GDA may provide early notification of presumptive positive results to relevant state and federal partners; however, expert judgement and interagency coordination will be used to determine the course of action to be taken on presumptive positive results. Considerations for public information and warning will be made. During a food emergency event, Unified Command should maintain relatively frequent communications with food emergency response partners (agencies and laboratories) in Georgia, in neighboring States, and at the Federal level to coordinate the outbreak investigations and containment/control strategies.

Result notifications may bring about need for public announcements or to raise public awareness, in some instances. Public information protocols shall be followed regarding any public communications or requests for information related to laboratory results and message dissemination shall be facilitated utilizing the JIS upon approval by UC.

### **Chain of Custody**

Official chain of custody protocols (labels/forms) for samples must be maintained to ensure the integrity and care of the samples from the time in which the samples are properly referenced by a log/tracking number at the time of collection, released to and received by appropriate couriers and laboratories, and destroyed in accordance with applicable regulations for hazardous materials.

For food incidents in which terrorism is suspected, state agencies should contact the FBI WMD Coordinator and GBI immediately to conduct the criminal investigation/crisis management. The FBI WMD Coordinator may issue a case number for collected samples, and direct a number of samples to the FBI laboratory for analysis in addition to the samples that would be anticipated by the GDA/GDPH laboratories as well as additional laboratories that comprise the FERN.

## **Control and Containment of Affected Products**

Preventing further consumption of affected products by determining, identifying and securing all product location(s) is critical in preventing increased mortality and morbidity, and essential to bringing the emergency to conclusion. Time is a vital factor in initiating the recall process. GDA, GDPH, GDOC, and GDOE, and other GA RRT partners, will support FDA and USDA recall initiatives and may coordinate recall activities through disseminating information to trade associations and the public of the affected product. Since the recall process is in most cases a voluntary action taken by industry in cooperation with federal and state agencies, the trade associations can play an important role in ensuring the recall information is distributed to trade association members quickly utilizing multiple communication platforms. If industry does not adhere to a voluntary recall request, the regulatory authority, FDA or USDA, for the particular product has the ability to issue the recall. Evidence of a credible threat shall result in GDA/GDPH initiating an embargo, stop sale or withhold from sale. GDPH and GDA will work within their respective ESFs, or collectively utilizing the GA RRT membership, to gain control and contain the movement of potentially affected products under the GDPH and GDA regulatory authority.

## **Disposal/Decontamination**

As described in **ESF 10**, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the primary agency in emergencies due to release of or exposure to hazardous and radiological contaminants within the state of Georgia. This Emergency Support Function (ESF) supports the National Response Framework (NRF), ESF 10 coordinated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division will lead the hazardous materials response. DNR has primary responsibility to coordinate:

- Responses to hazardous material incidents
- Develop detailed procedures for identification, control and clean-up of hazardous material
- Provide for or obtain training in radiological monitoring for hospital and emergency personnel in self-protection
- Proper disposal of wastes associated with hazardous materials and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) releases
- Assess incidents and maintain surveillance over reported incidents
- Decontamination activities with local, state, and federal agencies

DNR activities will be conducted in accordance with the National Contingency Plan. Owners and transporters are responsible for containment and clean-up of hazardous materials for their operations.

Unified Command will also follow the guidelines established in the *Guidelines for the Disposal of Intentionally Adulterated Food Products and the Decontamination of Food Processing Facilities* (April 2006) that serves as a resource guide for USDA FSIS, FDA, and EPA to coordinate with state officials utilizing unified command and outlines federal responsibilities and coordination requirements for food product disposal and decontamination in an intentional food contamination event. It is the role of industry to present a disposal and decontamination plan for approval by unified command during a response.

This document further outlines incidents involving intentional adulteration into several phases:

- **Discovery and Response phase:** the event is identified and confirmed, a response team is created, the team conducts an investigation, detains, retains, and recalls contaminated products
- **Disposal phase:** a specific plan for the disposal of the waste is developed and implemented
- **Decontamination phase:** affected equipment and structures are decontaminated based on a specific decontamination plan
- **Demobilization phase:** event clearance and termination.

**(The Food Emergency Response Activation Level Chart is found on the following page).**

## RRT Response Activation Levels/Conditions

**The following response actions for the FERP Activation and RRT Activation mirror the national framework.**

Food Emergency Response Plan Activation Levels		
Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team and Georgia Food Emergency Response Plan		
<b>Level 1</b>	<p><b>Level 1 Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires immediate response to protect public</li> <li>Exceeds a single authority's capability to respond</li> <li>Has immediate widespread public health and/or property consequences</li> <li>An act of intentional adulteration or terrorism is suspected</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level of Activation – Full Activation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Activation of State Emergency Operations Center</li> <li>Primary response agencies consult with GEMA to obtain the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration as necessary</li> <li>GEMA may seek mutual aid from sister states through Emergency Management Assistance Compacts</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	<p><b>Level 2 Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An immediate public health threat/incident involving food and feed takes place in Georgia and requires a response</li> <li>Response actions do not fall outside or exceed normal/routine operations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level of Activation – Partial Activation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary response agencies consult with GEMA</li> <li>Activation of agency EOC's</li> <li>Notifications made to supporting agencies/RRT that may play a role if a response is warranted</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	<p><b>Level 3 Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food incidents are routine and do not present immediate, widespread threats to public health and/or property</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level of Activation – Routine Food Incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The incident is within the capabilities of local agencies and departments</li> <li>The Food Emergency Response Plan is not implemented</li> <li>The Rapid Response Team and other response entities are not activated</li> </ul>

## **X. RESPONSE**

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GEMA and/or the GA RRT may establish a scalable, unified command comprised of sector specific agencies. The Unified Command activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring operational readiness to protect Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources, continuity of operations and continuity of business
- Consider forming a Unified Command and activating additional ESFs, as the situation warrants
- Implementing the use of PH Environmental Health Strike Teams or Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team
- Requesting that GEMA pre-position the 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team WMD at high-profile events serving/selling food
- Requesting the use of the 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team, mobile lab service
- Identifying and implementing additional sources of laboratory surge for increased sampling capabilities (such as Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks), these activities may include the following:
  - Special event surveillance sampling operations,
  - Operational sampling response requirements, and
  - Sampling food utilized in feeding first responders during special events
- Facilitating conference calls between food and agriculture working groups
- Notifying local law enforcement and event security at large scale and/or high-profile events to be on high alert and to consider additional security
- Notifying Agriculture and Food specific agencies and critical infrastructure with substantial footprints to be on alert for suspicious activity
- Disseminating information to key state, local and federal agencies through WebEOC and/or the Homeland Security Information Network (as the incident dictates)
- Requests for Presidential Declaration and requesting federal resources
- Request for assistance from federal, state and local law enforcement, if necessary
- Extensive communications and coordination of tasks with federal agencies (such as CDC, USDA, FDA, and GEMA as well as FBI if warranted)
- Supporting response operations of Federal agencies as outlined within the NRF
- Providing GDPH and GDA staff at field and fixed (SOC, JIC, and JOC, if established) locations
- Establishing a UC utilizing the Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team to coordinate with federal command structure to facilitate Incident Command Posts priority setting, interagency cooperation, and efficient flow of resources and information as per the NIMS framework
- Monitoring and detailing (trace) if necessary, outbound and inbound commodities
- Request State Joint Information System (S-JIS) activation to ensure collection, verification and timely dissemination of information to the public, if not established
- Releasing unified messages through the Federal Joint Information Center and/or State Joint Information Center (S-JIC)
- Coordinating response efforts with other states

- Requests by GEMA for mutual aid from sister states through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
- Coordinating missions with federal, state and local law enforcement, as appropriate

The sector specific working group activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Hosting daily conference calls between sector specific working group, GEMA, and additional agencies that need to know
- Determining whether to increase routine testing and inspection frequency at GDA/GDPH/USDA/FDA regulated facilities and/or special events
- Intensifying GDPH/GDA surveillance and communicating frequently with FDA CORE, CDC, and Incident Management Team (IMT)
- Communicating situational awareness from Environmental Health Strike Teams or Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response teams and sharing with GEMA and other agencies
- GDPH and GDA may advise regulated facilities to implement food defense practices and report problems or unusual observations immediately
- Providing bulletins through **GISAC Bulletin** to First Responders in Georgia and certain high priority private sectors
- Identifying critical nodes, including transportation and distribution channels, that supply substantial amounts of food throughout Georgia, to high-profile events within Georgia, and/or to events that serve food/sell food to a substantial population in order to conduct prevention and protection activities
- Establishing communications with industry regarding vehicle locations in transit
- Establishing transportation checkpoints for special event activities and/or during threat advisories or agro terrorism events to conduct food surveillance activities

### **Terrorism/Crisis Management**

Acts of terrorism regarding the food supply may be detected or suspected during a response. Suspected acts of terrorism affecting the food supply will trigger activation of the plan and result in immediate notification of the FBI and/or GBI once detected or suspected. Once contacted, the FBI may send a representative to the SOC and/or activate a Joint Operations Center (JOC).

During the criminal investigation, the following response operations may be performed (See “Appendix 6: Responsibility Matrix” for specific agencies that may conduct each operation):

- Collecting and analyzing the appropriate samples from all feasible potentially contaminated items. State laboratories (GDPH and GDA), upon written request from the FBI or GBI, can perform laboratory analyses. GDPH and GDA may request analytical services of FERN or CST labs as needed;
- Providing security, law enforcement, and traffic control, as required;
- Supporting response operations and controlling access and movement;
- Supporting response activities that are under the supervision of the lead agency and the SOC; and,
- Investigating suspected criminal activity.

### **Interaction of State Agencies and the FBI during Conduct of Terrorist Investigations**

In food incidents in which terrorism is suspects, GPH and/or GDA should contact the FBI and GBI immediately. The outbreak investigation and product investigation should be coordinated with law enforcement's (FBI/GBI) criminal investigation. When a Joint Operations Center (JOC) is established by the FBI, the JOC may function as the Unified Command and encompass the State Operation Center, Local Emergency Operations Center, and the Joint Information Center (JIC) within the JOC's overall command and coordination structure.

The Georgia Department of Public Health and Georgia Department of Agriculture will lead the outbreak and product response investigations, respectively, and coordinate activities concurrently with the Federal and/or State law enforcement entities' criminal investigation. The Unified Command may coordinate the investigation as outlined in the Terrorism Incident Law Enforcement and Investigation Annex of the National Response Framework (NRF).

### **Public Safety and Security During a Food Emergency**

Local law enforcement should remain in charge of the public safety and make requests for state law enforcement personnel and equipment when local resources are exhausted. In the event that local and state law enforcement capabilities become overwhelmed and the Governor has declared a State of Emergency or Disaster, the Georgia Department of Defense with the assistance of state law enforcement will be authorized to enforce criminal laws at the direction of the Governor. Implementation of Public Safety and Security functions may be warranted during a response.

Potential public safety and security response actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing checkpoints and/or perimeters for food embargo areas/control zones
- Coordinating with ESF 1 (GDOT) regarding Traffic Management Plans that result from control zone implementation
- Providing security to critical infrastructure
- Coordinating public information and providing updates for ESF 15 (External Affairs)
- Providing assistance in support of ESF 2 (Communication)

## **XI. JOINT INFORMATION SYSTEM (JIS)/COMMUNICATIONS**

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Function of the JIS in a food event may fall to the lead agency PIO or local EOC overseeing the response operations.

### **Public Messages**

GEMA is responsible for activating the State Joint Information System (S-JIS), if not previously created by local authorities, upon notification by lead agency/Unified Command to ensure the collection, verification, and timely dissemination of critical information to the public before, during, and after disasters and emergencies within the State of Georgia. Public Information Officers from relevant agencies may be assigned to the S-JIS.

Potential Public Information Officers (PIOs) that may initially be assigned to the S-JIS include, but are not limited to:

### **State Agencies**

- Office of the Governor
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency – Office of Homeland Security
- Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
- Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
- Department of Administrative Services
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Department of Defense
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Department of Public Safety
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Public Broadcasting

### **Federal Agencies**

- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- US Food and Drug Administration
- USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
- USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service
- US DHS, Customs and Border Protection

### **Local Agencies**

- Local Public Information Officer
- Food Banks
- Private Sector businesses
- Food Industry Associations/Organizations

## **Non-Governmental Organizations**

- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- House of Worship/Faith Based Organizations
- GA VOAD Organizations

The sharing of any information generated by response activities in this plan shall be in compliance with the information sharing and disclosure policies of the State of Georgia and will be conducted with approval from the Unified Command. The private sector can play a role in public information dissemination. Liaisons representing the affected commodity may be invited to participate in drafting public statements within the JIS, as appropriate.

## **Situational Awareness**

Situational Awareness (SA) will be provided to the JIS through the Lead Agency/Unified Command to the Lead PIO or identified JIS POC per established protocol and will include the following items:

1. Assessing and tracking threat/incident
2. Assessing the type of messages needed
3. Provide warnings to the public in formats accessible to all populations, including radio, TV, Social Media, etc.
4. Inform the public of product(s) recall information, return information, return, and disposal criteria, if any

## **Response**

1. Gather, coordinate, prepare for dissemination, and release accurate information to the public for talking points, public announcements, press releases, etc.
2. The UC PIO will coordinate release of public information with the local EMA and relevant state, federal, non-profit, and private sector partners to ensure all public warnings, press releases, and information is timely and accurate
3. Obtains approval for developing messages in accordance with agency protocol
4. Provide a written copy of the public announcement to agency heads, elected officials, etc. through pre-identified channels (agency liaison, etc.), as necessary
5. Determines and coordinates who will release messages and what communication methods are available throughout the jurisdiction impacted
6. Coordinates with media regarding response operations. When the JIC is stood up, notifies the news media that the UC's JIC is the information center for the incident and distributes talking points and press releases to all jurisdictions. PIOs ensure the public receives a common message
7. Organizes press conferences
8. Sets up Media Room, if necessary
9. Manages rumors
10. Issues press releases and media summaries
11. Notifies public of any declarations by the Governor or President

### **Agency/Business Roles and Responsibilities**

1. Assists with providing situational awareness and contributes to coordinated message development
2. Assigns PIO to the JIS to help coordinate all press releases and public information released to the response/event
3. Jurisdictions that are not directly affected by the incident and that have the supporting role should follow the “one message, multiple messengers” method by receiving talking points and press releases from the UC’s JIS
4. Provides up to date Agency/Business PIO Contact information to GEMA on an annual basis

### **Recovery**

1. Conduct after action review of JIS operations for after action report and improvement planning
2. Follow recommendations from AAR to mitigate future incidents

## **XII. DEMOBILIZATION/RECOVERY**

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### **Demobilization Criteria**

GEMA and/or the GA RRT UC may consider demobilizing activated ESFs and/or RRT members once the following are in place:

- The incident is under sufficient control to reinstate the local jurisdiction management
- The incidence of morbidity and mortality diminishes toward zero
- The full range of affected products has been held and recalled
- Previously purchases, unconsumed food has been recovered from consumers or consumers have been made aware of protocols for discarding affected products

GEMA may reduce the Operating Conditions Level or close the SOC when local jurisdictions can manage the situation. All agencies shall maintain expense documentation of personnel, supplies, and other resources; these documents shall be submitted to GEMA upon ceasing emergency operations. All agencies shall document their response activities including lessons learned and recommend areas of improvement to apply to future incidents; if necessary.

Coordinating agencies may elect to continue the following activities until the affected markets return to pre-incident conditions or until other conditions suggest these activities are no longer warranted:

- Intensive surveillance and monitoring
- Intensive food sampling and testing
- Providing unified messages through a Joint Information Center or Agency Public Information Officers
- Intensive and targeted inspections of affected market commodities
- Additional measures may be warranted based on conditions and sector-specific requirements

### **Recovery**

1. Conduct after action review of operational response or special event planning and response operations for after action report and improvement planning
2. Follow recommendations from AAR to mitigate future incidents

## **XIII. PLAN MAINTENANCE AND EXERCISE**

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This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis, and/or after a response event, and will be exercised according to the member agencies Training and Exercise Plan.

After Action Reports and Improvement Planning will be conducted after all real-life events are exercise conduct. AARs will be completed within 30 days after the event. The lead agency in charge is responsible for ensuring that the AAR is performed according to the established protocol.

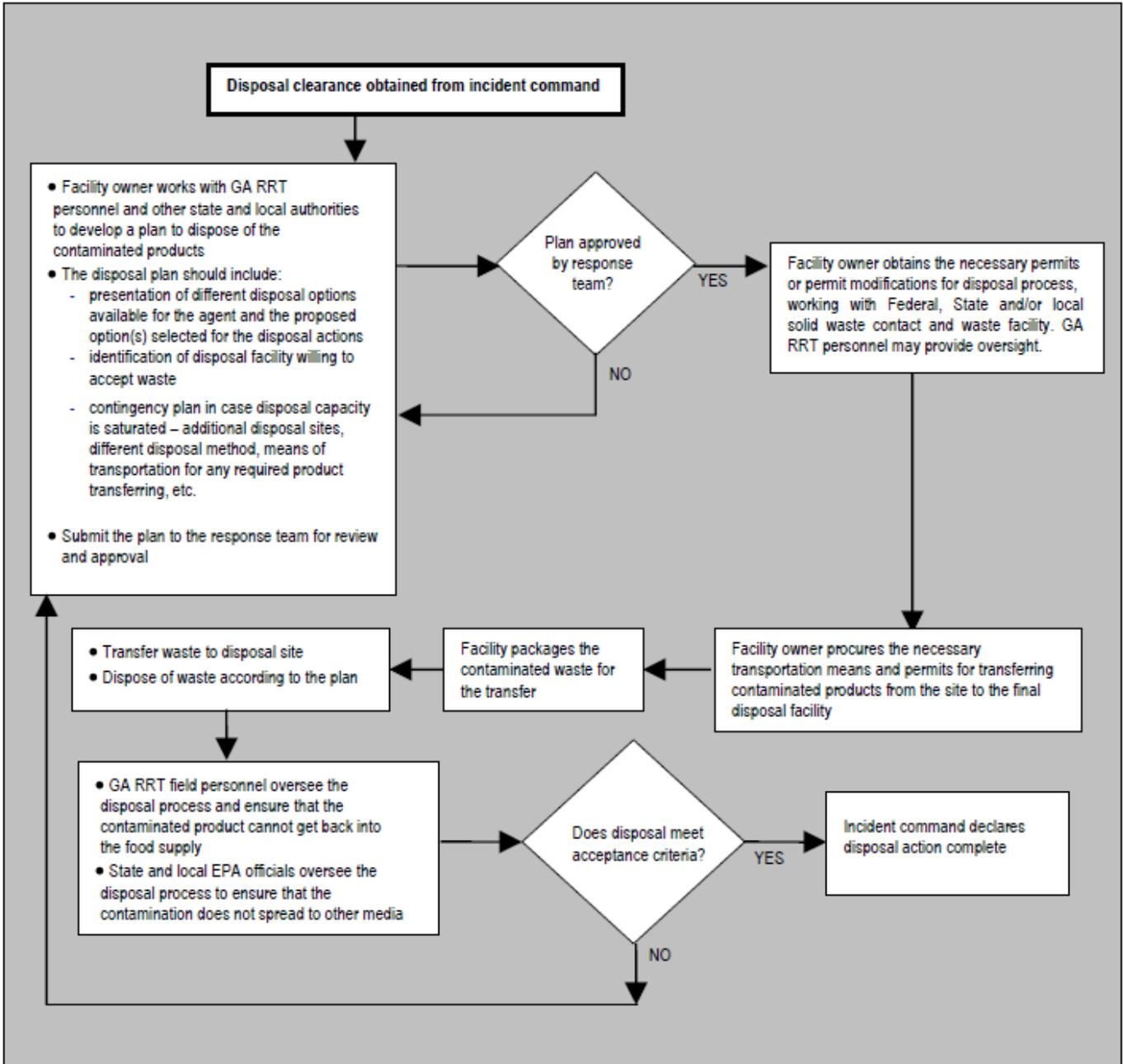
## APPENDICIES

### Appendix A: RRT Response Activation Levels/Conditions

**The following response actions for the FERP Activation and RRT Activation mirror the national framework.**

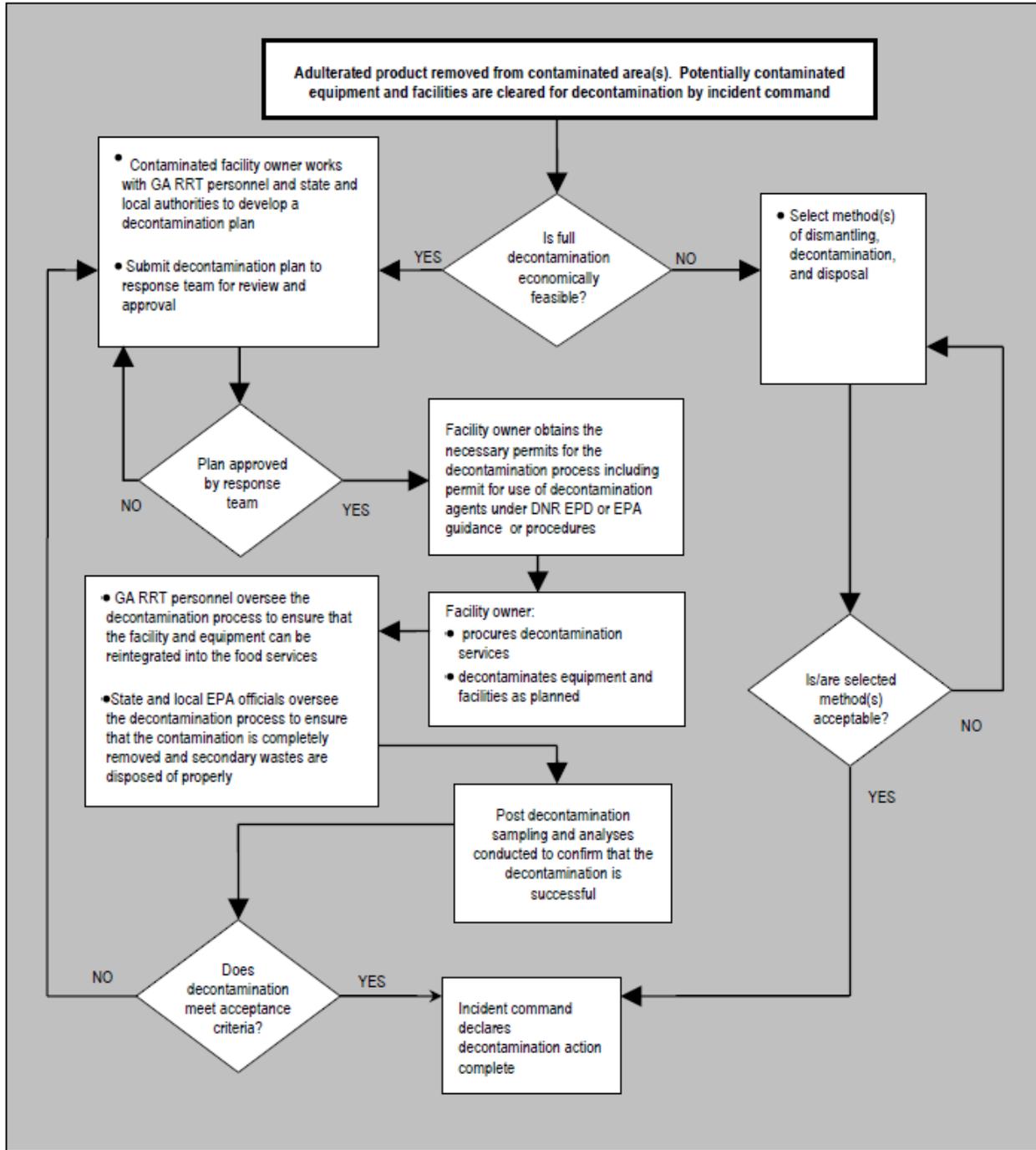
Food Emergency Response Plan Activation Levels			
Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team and Georgia Food Emergency Response Plan			
<b>Level 1</b>	<p><b>Level 1 Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires immediate response to protect public</li> <li>Exceeds a single authority's capability to respond</li> <li>Has immediate widespread public health and/or property consequences</li> <li>An act of intentional adulteration or terrorism is suspected</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level of Activation – Full Activation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Activation of State Emergency Operations Center</li> <li>Primary response agencies consult with GEMA to obtain the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration as necessary</li> <li>GEMA may seek mutual aid from sister states through Emergency Management Assistance Compacts</li> </ul>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; background-color: #f08080; margin-bottom: 10px;">Full FERP Activation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; background-color: #f08080; transform: rotate(45deg); margin-bottom: 10px;">Full RRT Activation</div> </div>
<b>Level 2</b>	<p><b>Level 2 Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An immediate public health threat/incident involving food and feed takes place in Georgia and requires a response</li> <li>Response actions do not fall outside or exceed normal/routine operations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level of Activation – Partial Activation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary response agencies consult with GEMA</li> <li>Activation of agency EOC's</li> <li>Notifications made to supporting agencies/RRT that may play a role if a response is warranted</li> </ul>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; background-color: #f0c080; margin-bottom: 10px;">Partial FERP Activation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0c080; transform: rotate(45deg); margin-bottom: 10px;">Partial RRT Activation</div> </div>
<b>Level 3</b>	<p><b>Level 3 Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food incidents are routine and do not present immediate, widespread threats to public health and/or property</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level of Activation – Routine Food Incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The incident is within the capabilities of local agencies and departments</li> <li>The Food Emergency Response Plan is not implemented</li> <li>The Rapid Response Team and other response entities are not activated</li> </ul>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c0e0c0; margin-bottom: 10px;">No Activation of FERP</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; background-color: #c0e0c0; transform: rotate(45deg); margin-bottom: 10px;">No RRT Activation</div> </div>

## Appendix B: Disposal Plan Flow Chart



**Note:** A key element of the disposal phase is the development and completion of a disposal plan. As illustrated in **Appendix E**, an approved disposal plan by Unified Command for the contaminated products is required to be submitted by industry to show how the waste will be properly dispositioned.

## Appendix C: Decontamination Flow Chart



**Note:** Decontamination of facilities or equipment will likely occur after the contaminated products have been removed or collected and disposal response actions have been completed. The owner of the establishment has an interest to conduct a cost-effective and timely remedial action in order to get the facility back on line as quickly as possible. However, the response team, GA RRT personnel including DNR EPD and EPA, may need time to determine the most appropriate decontamination techniques for the incident, depending upon the threat agent. Intentional adulteration incidents may involve the use of threat agents not typically found as contaminants in food sector industrial facilities. Alternatively, the owner of the establishment may determine that the remedial actions required to restart the plant will not be cost-effective because the ability to sell product from the facility upon restart has been complicated by public opinion about the incident.

## Appendix D: Diseases Notifiable Conditions

The list of Notifiable Diseases in Georgia can be found at the below link:

[http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/ND%20Reporting%20Poster.pdf](http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/ND%20Reporting%20Poster.pdf)

Table 1. Selected Notifiable Conditions in Georgia that may be transmitted through food

Condition	Reporting time
Any cluster* of illness	Immediate
Botulism	Immediate
E. coli O157 and other Shiga-toxin positives	Immediate
Salmonella	7 days
Cryptosporidium	7 days
Yersinia	7 days
Vibrio	7 days
Listeria	7 days
Shigella	7 days
Cyclospora	7 days

\*Cluster is defined as a group of cases linked together in place and time

# CDC Category Agents

## Category A

### Definition

The U.S. public health system and primary healthcare providers must be prepared to address various biological agents, including pathogens that are rarely seen in the United States. High-priority agents include organisms that pose a risk to national security because they

- can be easily disseminated or transmitted from person to person;
- result in high mortality rates and have the potential for major public health impact;
- might cause public panic and social disruption; and
- require special action for public health preparedness.

### Agents/Diseases

- Anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*)
- Botulism (*Clostridium botulinum* toxin)
- Plague (*Yersinia pestis*)
- Smallpox (variola major)
- Tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*)
- Viral hemorrhagic fevers (filoviruses [e.g., Ebola, Marburg] and arenaviruses [e.g., Lassa, Machupo])

## Category B

### Definition

Second highest priority agents include those that

- are moderately easy to disseminate
- result in moderate morbidity rates and low mortality rates
- require specific enhancements of CDC's diagnostic capacity and enhanced disease surveillance.

## CDC Category Agents Continued

### Agents/Diseases

- Brucellosis (*Brucella* species)
- Epsilon toxin of *Clostridium perfringens*
- Food safety threats (e.g., *Salmonella* species, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Shigella*, etc.)
- Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)
- Melioidosis (*Burkholderia pseudomallei*)
- Psittacosis (*Chlamydia psittaci*)
- Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*)
- Ricin toxin from *Ricinus communis* (castor beans)
- Staphylococcal enterotoxin B
- Typhus fever (*Rickettsia prowazekii*)
- Viral encephalitis (alphaviruses [e.g., Venezuelan equine encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, western equine encephalitis])
- Water safety threats (e.g., *Vibrio cholerae*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*)

### Category C

#### Definition

Third highest priority agents include emerging pathogens that could be engineered for mass dissemination in the future because of

- availability
- ease of production and dissemination
- potential for high morbidity and mortality rates and major health impact.

#### Agents

- Emerging infectious diseases such as *Nipah Virus* (NiV) and *hantavirus*

## **Appendix E: Emergency Contact List**

*For food emergencies in Georgia, calls should be directed as follows:*

**To report a public health emergency**

Georgia Department of Public Health  
1-866-PUB-HLTH  
(1-866-782-4584)

**To report an emergency regarding Foods and other State Agriculture inspected facilities:**

Georgia Department of Agriculture, Food Safety Division  
404-656-3627

Georgia Department of Agriculture, Inspector General  
404-656-3610

Georgia Department of Agriculture, Emergency Management Division  
404-463-1081

**To request resource assistance from the State Operations Center/State Communications Center:**

Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Office of Homeland Security  
1-800-TRY-GEMA  
1-800-879-4362

**To report an environmental emergency requiring immediate attention:**

Environmental Protection Division  
1-800-TRY-GEMA  
1-800-879-4362

**To report criminal activity:**

Contact your local law enforcement or 911

**To report threats and tips:**

Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC)

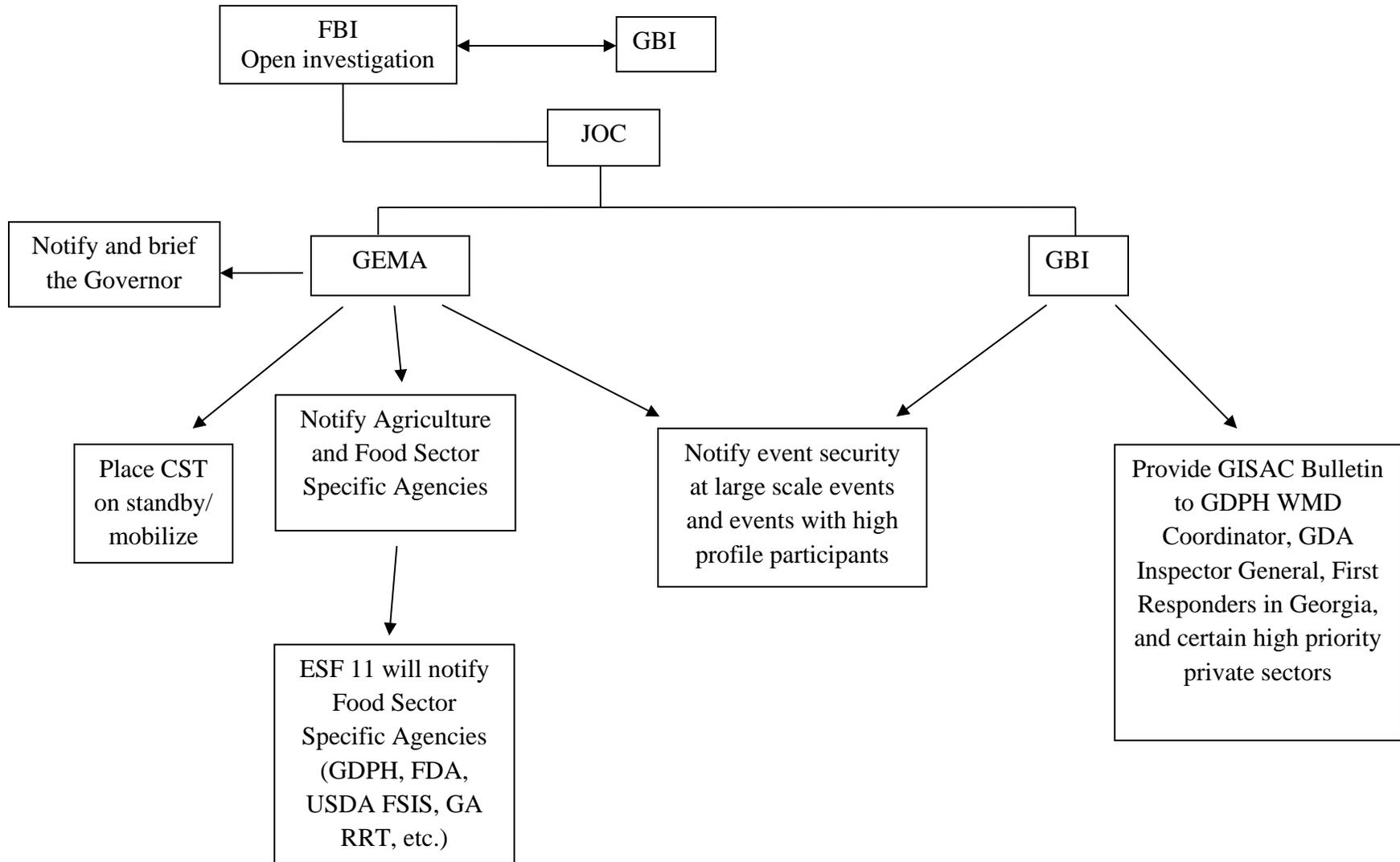
<http://www.gema.ga.gov/ohsgemawebreporting.nsf/ThreatsandTips?OpenForm>

FBI Suspicious Activity Line: 1-855-TELL-FBI

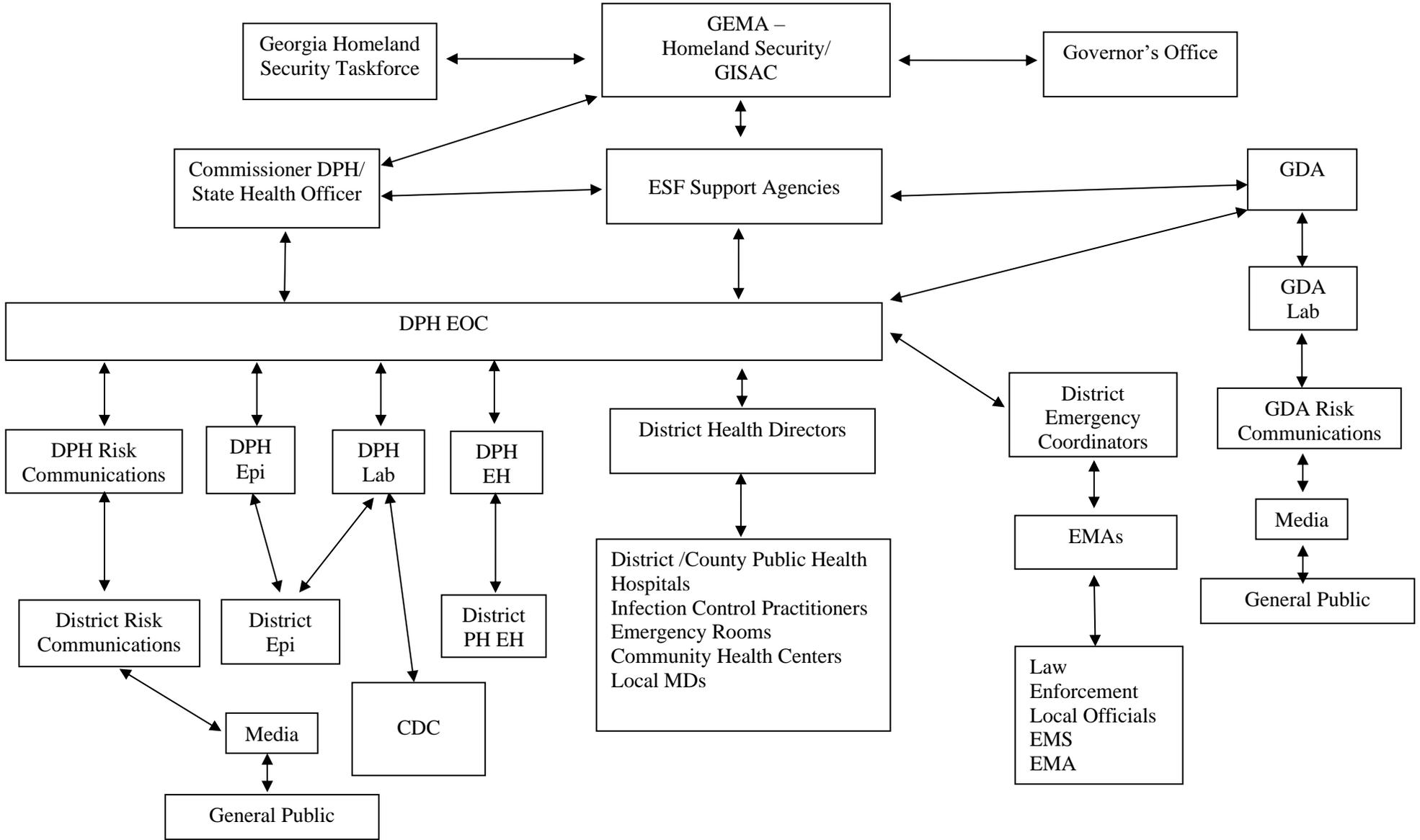
**To report traffic emergencies:**

Georgia Department of Public Safety  
Dial 511 or \*GSP (on cell phone)

## Appendix F: Notification Framework (Credible Threat)



## Appendix G: Flow of Communication



**Appendix H: Unified Command Framework (Intentional Contamination Suspected)**

