



Volume 1, Issue 1 December 2016

Welcome to McLean County's "Take a byte of food safety"!

We have made the move to provide you direct, locally relevant food safety information after more than two decades of providing local food establishments educational food safety information through a third party newsletter vendor. "Take a byte of food safety" will be provided to you annually at the time your annual food permit is mailed to you. The decision to provide an in-house newsletter comes with a number of advantages:

1) The information we provide in the newsletter will be specific to changes occurring in the state and in McLean County;

2) The articles will be developed by McLean County Environmental Health staff, making it more efficient for you as a food service professional to get more detailed explanations about articles direct-

ly from the authors;

3) You now get the opportunity to provide suggestions for the type of articles you would like to see in the newsletter whether it be a topic of legal, regulatory, food process/preparation, or management issues;

4) You will have the option of receiving the newsletter electronically to store in your files for future reference.

We made this change in the interest to help you provide high quality, wholesome, and creative foods to your customers while operating a successful and safe food service.

We hope you enjoy "Take a byte of food safety" and find the information in the articles compelling, interesting, and useful.

Please contact this office at (309) 888-5482 (press number 1 on your phone once the automated directory begins) or e-mail the McLean County Food Program Supervisor Linda Fouch at linda.fouch@mcleancountyil.gov or me at tom.anderson@mcleancountyil.gov if you have any suggestions for future newsletter topics.

Respectfully,
Thomas J. Anderson
Thomas J. Anderson
Director of Environmental Health

Special Points of Interest

- Welcome
- FSSMC
- Fire Safety
- Food Handlers Certification

Fun Facts:

- There are a total of 866 establishments in McLean County that have Food Permits.
- By the end of 2016 the inspectors will have done almost 3000 food establishment inspections
- We have issued almost 500 temporary food permits for 2016
- The inspectors in the Environmental Health Department not only inspect food establishment but do inspections for Private Sewage disposal, Water Well and Geothermal systems.

Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC)

Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) is required by the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Code based on the food service establishment's risk category. Facilities categorized as "High Risk" shall have a FSSMC person on the premises at all times potentially hazardous food is being handled.

A FSSMC is obtained by completing an approved eight hour course with an Illinois approved instructor and passing an exam. A \$35.00 fee must be paid to the Illinois Department of

Public Health for the Illinois certificate after successfully completing the course. The certificate is valid for five years from the exam date. The process is repeated once a certificate expires.

The State of Illinois is in the process of transitioning to a paperless format. All forms and requests must be submitted electronically, despite wording on the forms stating to mail the form and any relevant fees.

For a list of upcoming FSSMC classes by county in Illinois, please visit the website below and contact the instructor listed for more information or to register: <http://public.dph.illinois.gov/fssmccourses/>

Reciprocity from the state of Illinois for a National Certificate must be submitted electronically by following the instructions in this link: <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/fssmc-reciprocity-form-re-041816.pdf>

To request a new certificate, re-

placement certificate, or report a name and/or address change, please follow this link: <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/fssmc-program-request-form-041816.pdf>

Additional questions? Visit the following website: <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/fssmc> or email the Illinois Department of Public Health directly at: dph.fssmc@illinois.gov

Submitted by Amanda Davenport

Fires and Food Establishments: What to do

In the past year, McLean County Health Department has responded to over a dozen fire incidents in food establishments. These incidents have ranged from an unintended discharge of a fire suppression system to severe kitchen fires that resulted in food establishments being closed.

Food and food preparation equipment in the facility must be assessed for damage and potential contamination resulting from the fire or fire suppression discharge. Components of the physical building and its systems will also be evaluated by other agencies prior to your establishment continuing food operations.

When a fire suppression system such as; hand held extinguishers, automated fire suppression systems, and sprinkler systems, are discharged in and around food preparation, food storage, or service areas, the following steps should be taken in order to continue operations of your foodservice:

1) Contact the local Fire Department by dialing 911;

2) Contact the McLean County Health Department:

A) If the incident occurs during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4:30 PM, call the department directly at **(309) 888-5482** (dial 1 once the automated directory begins to be transferred to a representative);

B) Call PATH at **(309) 827-4005** if the incident occurs after hours or on weekends and holidays. Provide PATH with contact information for your facility's person in charge for the incident. PATH will contact the health department with information to contact your facility's person in charge and responding fire department.

The Health Department will conduct an on-site assessment with the person in charge

and other personnel such as insurance agents and municipal inspectors to survey the extent of damage and how best to proceed with the cleanup and destruction of contaminated and damaged food products and equipment.

Clearance must be received from the Health Department, Fire Department, and Building and Safety Departments prior to resuming operations.

Path: (309) 827-4005
Fire Department: 911
Health Department: (309) 888-5482

Submitted by Scott Cook

Food Handler Requirements

All food handlers working in Illinois are required to have completed an ANSI approved food handler course. Below are some answers to common questions about this requirement.

Anyone working with unpackaged food, food equipment or utensils, or food contact surfaces must complete the training, unless they have a valid Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification.

Food handlers must complete their required training no later than 30 days from the date of hire.

Current restaurant employees should have completed their training by December 31, 2014. Current non-restaurant employees (i.e. nursing homes, day care centers, hospitals, schools, long term care facilities and retail food stores) should have completed

their training by July 1, 2016.

The food handler course must be American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved. Approved courses can be found on our website at www.health.mcleancountyil.gov

Food handler training must be completed every three years for those working in restaurants. Non-restaurant employees will only need to complete the course one time as long as they stay employed at a non-restaurant.

Proof of course completion must be kept at the facility for verification during routine inspections.

The food handler training does not replace the Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC). The State of

Illinois Food Code requires a FSSMC employee to be present at all times potentially hazardous food is being handled at a Category I (high risk) facility and at least one full time FSSMC employee must be employed at a Category II (medium risk) facility.

Please contact us or refer to our website if you have any questions related to these requirements.

Submitted by Angie Crawford

Officially Approved By



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