



Ohio Department of Agriculture
and
Ohio Department of Health



Governor Bob Taft
Lieutenant Governor Jennette Bradley

ODA Director Fred L. Dailey
ODH Director J. Nick Baird, M.D.

To: Health Commissioners, Environmental Health Directors, Nursing Directors,
ODA Food Safety Specialists, and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2003-53

The South Bend Chocolate Company Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Peanuts, Tree Nuts, and Egg Products in 5-pc Assortment, 4-pc. Turtles, 1, 2 lb and Snowy Evening Tins, Snowmen Towers, Certain Fudge Products

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- South Bend, IN -- December 24, 2003 -- The South Bend Chocolate Company of South Bend, Indiana is recalling its 5-pc assortment, 4-pc turtles, 1 and 2 lb and snowy evening tins, snowmen towers, and fudge because they may contain undeclared peanuts, tree nuts or egg products. People who have allergies to peanuts, tree nuts or egg products run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products.

The recalled 5-pc assortment, 4-pc turtles, 1, 2 lb, and snowy evening tins, snowmen towers, and fudge were distributed nationwide in retail stores and through mail orders.

The product comes in either a 3 x 3 clear box with the South Bend Chocolate Company logo on top (5 pc assortment and 4 pc turtles), 1 and 2 lb gold, red, and snowy evening tin container with the company logo on top and a 3-piece decorative snowmen tower, tied with a ribbon with the company logo. The fudge was packaged in 4.5 lb. disposable baking tins, consisting of the following flavors: chocolate walnut, peanut butter, peanut butter/chocolate, maple walnut, rocky road, and turtle.

No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem.

The recall was initiated after it was discovered that the peanut, tree nut or egg product - containing products were distributed in packaging that did not reveal the presence of peanuts, tree nuts or egg products. Subsequent investigation indicates the problem was caused by a temporary breakdown in the company's production and packaging processes.

Consumers who have purchased 5-pc assortment, 4-pc turtles, 1 lb, 2 lb, or snowy evening tins or snowmen towers, and above listed fudge are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 800/301-4961.