



S3 Food Symposium, May 25-27, 2011  
Monterey Marriott Hotel, Monterey CA

### Speaker Biographies/Contact Information

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Michael Hernandez currently holds the position of Chief, Emergency Response Unit (ERU) within the California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch.

The Emergency Response Unit performs environmental investigations and coordinates regulatory actions in response to reports of foodborne illness outbreaks and food contamination. ERU consists of investigators, research scientists, and analytical staff that support the Unit's activities, including: investigations at farms, point-of-service, processors, and distributors; and product trace back and recall activities. ERU coordinates its activities with CDPH – Infectious Disease Branch, FDA, USDA, CA - Department of Pesticide Regulation, and local health departments.

Michael is also the Team Leader for "CalFERT", the California Food Emergency Response Team. CalFERT consists of investigators and scientists from FDA and CDPH that jointly conduct environmental investigations during foodborne illness outbreaks, food contamination, and tampering events. CDPH and FDA support CalFERT activities through joint training, resource acquisition, and planning.

Michael has been with CDPH for twenty-seven years.

Prior to his position with ERU, Michael held positions of Chief, Seafood Safety Unit, Chief, Industry Education and Training Unit, Seafood Program Specialist, and Food and Drug Investigator.