



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services
1001 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
www.maricopa.gov/envsvc

September 5, 2001

For more information, contact Laura Devany at (602) 506-6611 / Pager: (602) 420-7874

NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH 2001 KICKS OFF ***September Promotion Emphasizes “Be Cool-Chill Out! Refrigerate Promptly”***

(Phoenix) – September is National Food Safety Education Month and Serve It Safe Arizona Alliance will be hosting activities in Valley libraries, grocery stores and assisted living centers throughout the month promoting safe food handling and preparation. *Be Cool-Chill out! Refrigerate Promptly* is this year’s theme.

Harmful bacteria grow most rapidly in the Danger Zone – the unsafe temperatures between 40 and 140°F – so it’s important to keep food out of this temperature range. In addition, cold temperatures keep most harmful bacteria from growing; therefore, refrigerating food quickly is key.

Here are some helpful tips for keeping cold food cold:

- Make sure the temperature in the refrigerator is 40°F or below and 0°F or below in the freezer.
- Use a refrigerator/freezer thermometer to check the temperature. Don’t overfill the refrigerator. Cool air must circulate to help keep food safe.
- Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared food and leftovers within two hours of purchase or preparation or within one hour if the temperature is above 90°F.
- Thaw food in the refrigerator. For quick thawing, submerge in cold water in airtight packaging, or thaw in the microwave and cook the food immediately.
- Divide large quantities of leftovers into shallow containers for quicker cooling in the refrigerator.
- Marinate food in the refrigerator.
- When transporting food, place cold food in a cooler with a cold source such as ice or commercial freezing gels. Keep it in the coolest part of your car, rather than in a hot trunk.

Plan your stories early and call Laura Devany, (602) 506-6611, for story ideas or to schedule demonstrations. See the attached schedule of events.

About Serve It Safe Arizona

The Maricopa County Environmental Health Division formed the Serve It Safe Arizona Alliance in 1999 to develop a broad based coalition of public and private partners committed to the education of our citizens about safe food handling practices. Other founding partners are the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Bashas’, Fry’s, Safeway, Arizona Beef Council, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Arizona Dairy Council, Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health, Albertson’s and the Arizona Restaurant Association.

MEDIA ADVISORY:

**WHAT: NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH KICK-OFF EVENT AND
FOOD SAFETY DEMONSTRATION FOR SENIORS**

WHEN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001 AT 10:00 A.M.

**WHERE: FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
2645 E. SOUTHERN AVENUE, TEMPE**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Environmental Health Specialists will be at the following locations offering food safety advice and tips.

**September 6th: Phoenix Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**North Central Regional Library 17811 N. 32nd St., Phoenix
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Scottsdale Civic Center Library 3839 Civic Center Blvd., Scottsdale
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Tempe Library 3500 S. Rural Rd., Tempe
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Mesa Main Library 64 E. 1st St., Mesa
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Chandler Library 22 S. Delaware, Chandler
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Southeast Regional Library 775 N. Greenfield Rd., Gilbert
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**September 13th: Sun Valley Lodge 12415 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City
11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**

**Sierra Winds Lifecare Retirement Community 17300 N. 88th Ave., Peoria
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.**

**Westminster Village of Scottsdale 12000 N. 90th St., Scottsdale
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.**

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Classic Residence by Hyatt 7501 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy., Scottsdale
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Beatitudes Campus of Care 1610 W. Glendale, Phoenix
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Orangewood Retirement Center 7550 N. 16th St., Phoenix
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Grand Court 13240 N. Tatum Blvd., Phoenix
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Greenfields Assisted Living Community 723 E. 2nd Ave., Mesa
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Pines at the Park 35 W. Brown Rd., Mesa
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.

The Towers 22 N. Robson St., Mesa
11:00 to 2:00 P.M.

September 20th:

Albertson's Ray & 48th St. 4820 E. Ray Rd., Phoenix
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Albertson's 16th St. and Camelback 1625 E. Camelback, Phoenix
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Albertson's Litchfield and I-10 409 N. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Albertson's Grand & Reems 14551 W. Grand Ave., Surprise
10:00 A.M. to Noon

Albertson's 15660 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Albertson's 18411 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Albertson's 1951 W. Baseline Rd., Mesa
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Albertson's Stapley and University, Mesa
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.