



**MARICOPA COUNTY**  
**Environmental Services**  
1001 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
[www.maricopa.gov/envsvc](http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc)

March 19, 2001

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

## **COUNTY RECOGNIZES ESTABLISHMENTS FOR BEST FOOD SAFETY PRACTICES** *Two Albertson's Stores Receive Award at March 21 Event*

(Phoenix) – Ensuring safe food means more than having shiny sinks and tidy counter tops; it also depends on strict food safety practices. The County is recognizing two Valley Albertson's stores Wednesday with the Excellence in Food Safety Award for their exceptional food safety programs and commitment to protecting consumer health.

The two stores will host an award presentation and offer tours of their facilities on **Wednesday, March 21** at the following times and locations:

- **9:00 a.m.**                      **Albertson's Service Deli**                      **4820 E. Ray Rd.** (48<sup>th</sup> St. & Ray Rd.)
- **10:30 a.m.**                      **Albertson's Meat Market**                      **8035 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.** (19<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Northern)

"Fortunately many stores score well on their inspections," said Environmental Health Manager David Ludwig, "but these two are the best of the best and deserve to be rewarded for taking their food safety programs to the next level."

A five-panel committee rigorously reviewed food establishment's entries. The stores were selected based on their past 12-month inspection history, risk-based food safety program, crisis management plan, food recall tracking system, pest control program, consumer advisory program, employee education system and employee illness policy.

The selection committee was comprised of representatives from industry, the public, media and Maricopa County Environmental Health staff. The committee is currently accepting nominations for the next award, which is given biannually. The deadline is June 1, 2001. For more information call the Environmental Health Department at (602) 506-6970, ext. 0.

### **About the Environmental Health Division**

The Environmental Health Division of the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department reviews and approves construction plans for food production facilities including: restaurants, grocery stores, processors, pet grooming establishments, hotels, boarding homes, supervised care homes and school cafeterias within Maricopa County. Environmental Health issues construction and operating permits, inspects establishments according to the Maricopa County Environmental Health Code (MCEHC) and manages other special programs related to foodborne illness outbreaks, education and training.