

# Recall Issued After Meningitis Outbreak

ATLANTA (AP) — The pharmacy that distributed a steroid linked to an outbreak of fungal meningitis has issued a voluntary recall of all of its products, calling the move a precautionary measure.

The New England Compounding Center announced the recall Saturday. The company said in a news release that the move was taken out of an abundance of caution because of the risk of contamination. It says there is no indication that any other products have been contaminated.

The Food and Drug Administration had previously told health professionals not to use any products distributed by the center.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted updated figures to its website Sunday showing there are 91 confirmed cases of the rare form of fungal meningitis. The outbreak spans nine states and has killed at least seven people.

The states with reported cases are: Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia.

# Logging

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forest perspective, we could have done some things differently.”

He said private landowners lack the resources to tackle the problem alone. The Nebraska Forest Service has a fund to help cover the cost of logging, he said, but “quite frankly, we have way more demand than we do dollars.”

The forest and grasslands burned are a combination of state, federal and privately owned property. Federal officials who oversee roughly one-third of the burned area had been working for years to thin the forest before this year’s drought hit, said Jane Darnell, forest supervisor for the Nebraska National Forest and Grassland. Darnell said federal and state forestry officials have joined forces to prepare the forests for natural fires. But she added: “We certainly have a ways to go.”

Darnell said crews will likely focus now on an area east of U.S. Highway 385, which includes homes and the Pine Ridge Jobs Corps Center. The area survived this year’s fire, but Darnell said it was also threatened in 2006.

Nickerson said more trees need to be harvested for wood products, such as furniture and heating fuel. He pointed to Chadron State College’s wood-fired heating and cooling system, which regulates the temperature in all campus buildings. The boiler system runs on wood chips that would otherwise be considered waste, and it meets federal environmental standards.

The wood could also serve as an additive for traditional coal, he said. Nickerson said mixing a small amount of wood into the coal would reduce emissions and provide another use for the wood.

Nickerson said logging serves a dual purpose: It helps thin the trees so the fires have less to burn, and requires logging companies to build and pay for access roads through dense forest that firefighters can later use. The roads also serve as a perimeter to prevent prescribed burns from growing out of control.

“The market for those forest products help pay for those access roads,” Nickerson said. “It’s not tourism. It’s not bird-watchers. It’s not well-intentioned preservationists who think the forest should be left to its own volition.”

Nickerson said recent cooler temperatures have eased the fire threat. The forest also is filled with ponderosa pines, a species that has evolved with thicker bark and efficient water-storage to adapt to drought conditions and fire.

“With that said, though, we’re not out of the fire season,” he said. “Everything’s still bone dry, and everything burns.”

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# Our Heritage

Sacred Heart Hospital first opened its doors on Nov. 4, 1897. The hospital had no electricity and kerosene lamps were used for lighting. Instruments were sterilized on the kitchen stove, dressings were “baked” in the oven and a coal-burning stove heated each room. The first transportation to and from the hospital was by horse (Old Dobbin) and buggy, which also served as the ambulance.

Sacred Heart quickly outgrew its 30-bed building and broke ground in 1912 for an 80-bed facility that was dedicated in 1915.

Construction on today’s 144-bed building started in 1979, and opened in 1981. The Avera name was created in 1998, and the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters later joined their health care ministries in 2000.

In 1999 hospital officials announced the purchase of land overlooking the Missouri River valley for a senior living complex. Majestic Bluffs boasts Avera Sister James Care Center, Adult Day Center, Assisted Living and Senior Living Apartments and Bluff Townhouses.

The Avera Surgery Center opened in 2003. The Same Day Surgery Center is the only outpatient surgical facility in the Yankton region with physician anesthesiologists and immediate access to the full resources of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

In 2006, the new Emergency Department was completed, which doubled the number of patient rooms and gave ambulance patients a separate entrance from walk-in patients.

The Avera Professional Office Pavilion was established in 2007 to house physician offices, a medical library, an amphitheater and meeting rooms.

Earlier this year the newly renovated Surgery Department introduced a new era of surgical care to our region. New, larger operating suites are fully integrated with high definition video imaging and visualization. State-of-the-art equipment, combined with first-rate surgical care is now offered in the region’s only full-service medical center.

# Our Future

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital continues to invest in the future of our community. This summer, ground was broken for the Northern Lights Project. During the next two years, the north face of the hospital will be transformed. This \$17.1 million three story addition will include a new kitchen and cafeteria, new pharmacy and laboratory facilities, as well as expanding and enhancing many other services.

Nearly 115 years after it’s humble beginnings,  
today’s Avera Sacred Heart Hospital leads the way  
in providing world-class health care to more than  
120,000 people in a 15 county region.

Avera

Sacred Heart Hospital