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Freshtex Produce recalls “Valery” brand papayas due to possible health risk

The Kane County Health Department is advising that Freshtex Produce of Alamo, Texas, is voluntarily recalling “Valery” brand Maradol Papayas grown and packed by Carica de Campeche, because the fruit has the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*.

No illnesses have been reported, but the Maradol Papayas were distributed in Illinois from July 10 to July 13, and may have been further distributed outside of Illinois. Consumers can identify the papayas by the “Valery” name on the box and label grown and packed by Carica de Campeche. No other papayas distributed by Freshtex Produce LLC are subject to the recall.

The recall was initiated after Freshtex Produce’s LLC, was notified by the Food and Drug Administration, on August 4, 2017, that other brands of Maradol Papayas from the farm, Carica de Campeche, had tested positive for *Salmonella*. As a precaution the FDA recommended a recall of all Maradol Papayas imported in the month July from the Carica de Campeche farm.

Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

Consumers who may have purchased the Valery brand papayas are advised to dispose of them. Consumers with questions may contact Freshtex Produce at 956-322-4817. Calls will be received from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT.

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