

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH SERVICES

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NEWS NEWS

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STATE HEALTH DIRECTOR
ISSUES WARNING ON
WEIGHT-LOSS PRODUCT

State Health Director Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H., today warned consumers not to consume tablets or capsules of Cal-Ban 3000, a weight-loss product that may result in obstructions in the esophagus, stomach, and intestines. Retailers are also warned not to sell this product.

Cal-Ban's main ingredient is guar gum, a plant derivative that swells when it becomes wet. Guar gum is safely used in small amounts to thicken some foods.

The Food and Drug Administration has reported 20 cases and the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services has reported 100 cases of adverse reaction to Cal-Ban 3000, a product promoted by a Florida company. Many of these cases required medical intervention. At least three cases of esophageal obstruction have been reported in California. One person in Arkansas is reported to have died from complications following the removal of an esophageal obstruction after ingesting Cal-Ban 3000.

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The Department's Food and Drug Branch is monitoring retailers to assure that Cal-Ban is no longer being sold.

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