MONMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DIVISION

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - ADULT MOSQUITO TREATMENTS

**Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all the residents in their community.**

Applications of pesticides by the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division to control adult mosquitoes may be made at any point from May 1st through November 30th as is necessary. Below is a list of common questions and answers related to this type of pesticide application.

## How does the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division (MCMCD) determine the need for applications of pesticides for adult mosquitoes?

The MCMCD treats for adult mosquitoes in response to extreme nuisance levels or the presence of mosquito-borne disease. This decision is based on a number of factors and relies heavily on our surveillance of mosquito populations throughout the county and our monitoring of mosquitoes for the presence of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. We are also in constant communication with state and local health officials who notify us when mosquito-borne diseases are found in humans, birds, horses, and other animals.

## How does MCMCD apply these pesticides?

Most applications of pesticides for adult mosquitoes, known as "adulticides," are made using ground equipment. Truck-mounted machines aerosolize the pesticide into droplets that are only microns in size. This is the ideal size to contact mosquitoes in flight, minimize droplets from falling to the ground, and allow the pesticides to be applied at only ounces per acre. Thus, these machines are known as Ultra Low Volume (ULV) Sprayers. These machines possess equipment that accurately meters out the pesticides and allows us to uniformly treat an area without over application.

Another type of ground application equipment for adulticides are handheld sprayers. These use the same aerosolizing mechanism as the truck mounted machines, but are small enough to be carried through an area by a technician on foot.

On rare occasions the MCMCD may determine that an area needs to be treated with adulticides by air. Aerial applications of adulticides are generally made to control an outbreak of mosquito-borne disease. Aerial application equipment may also be used when an extreme mosquito nuisance problem is spread over a large area and cannot be effectively treated by ground equipment. Aerial adulticide applications are made using helicopter mounted spray equipment. The helicopter is equipped with spray booms that disperse the adulticide using a series of nozzles to produce the appropriate droplet size.

## What if I have more/ specific questions?

More information about our treatments for mosquitoes, including any specific plans for adulticide treatments can be found at www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito or you can contact our office at 732-542-3630 or email us at mosquitoes@co.monmouth.nj.us. For general pesticide specific questions you can also contact the National Pesticide Information Center at 1-800-858-7378.

## What can I do to reduce adult mosquitoes around my home?

Reducing mosquito habitat around your home is both essential and greatly appreciated. A third of mosquito nuisances reported by Monmouth County residents in 2014 were a result of "home grown mosquitoes." Unfortunately, MCMCD does not have the resources to abate mosquitoes at every home in the County and home grown mosquitoes detract from control efforts in other areas like fresh water swamps and salt marshes.

The most effective strategy for controlling mosquitoes around your home is to not give larval mosquitoes a place to live and grow. Mosquitoes are very resourceful and larvae can live in nearly any water filled container that lays stagnant for 7 days or more. These mosquitoes prefer not to fly very far and stick close to your home feeding off your family, pets, and neighbors.

Eliminate standing water by:

- Disposing of items that you don't need and may collect water. Those containers that you need, like buckets or watering cans, should be turned over so as not to collect water.
- Drilling drainage holes in the bottom of garbage bins.
- Keeping roof gutters clean of debris and properly pitching downspout extensions so they don't hold water.

**Don't forget:** check for containers under your porch or deck, under bushes, and behind sheds.
If you need advice or assistance call us at 732-542-3630 or email us at mosquitoes@co.monmouth.nj.us.

## How can I tell if I am being physically affected by the pesticides?

The chance of experiencing symptoms of exposure with proper use is low. The USEPA has estimated the exposure to both adults and children posed by ULV aerial and ground applications of adulticides to be hundreds or even thousands of times below an amount that might pose a health concern. Symptoms of acute over exposure will vary according to the pesticide used and can include skin rash, difficulty breathing, eye and nasal irritation, abnormal sensations of the skin (tingling or prickling), irritation headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, excessive sweating, salivation, excessive tearing, and a runny nose.

You should contact your physician, other medical providers or the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (**NJPIES**) at **1-800-222-1222** if you experience the above symptoms following exposure to pesticide spraying.

## What do I do to avoid exposure to pesticides while MCMCD is conducting treatments?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency does not require relocating or taking special precautions during mosquito control spraying. However, the Division realizes that some people may prefer to avoid or minimize exposure by practicing common sense precautions. These precautions include: staying indoors during and immediately after treatments, keeping windows shut, and turning window air conditioners and window fans off during spraying.

## What if I have questions or concerns about pesticide regulations or misuse of pesticides?

If you believe that pesticides are being misused in any way or have questions about pesticides regulations please call the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Pesticide Control Program at 609-984-6507.