"Scourge®"

This sheet answers some basic questions about a mosquito control product in use in your county. The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information.

What is Scourge® and how is it used?

Scourge® is an insecticide product that is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Scourge® contains the pesticides called ***"Resmethrin and Piperonyl Butoxide (PBO)."*** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current evaluation considers Pyrethroid/piperonyl butoxide containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of an integrated mosquito control program.

Scourge® is used for the control of adult mosquitoes. While habitat management and measures to control immature mosquitoes in water are preferred, the spraying of adult mosquitoes is called for when biting populations reach critical levels or when a disease organism is present in adult mosquitoes. A very fine mist is sprayed into the air since flying mosquitoes must directly contact the pesticide in order for it to be effective. As reported on EPA pesticide fact sheets, ULV applications involve small quantities of active ingredient in relation to the size of the treated area which minimizes exposure and risks to people and the environment.

How can I reduce my exposure to Scourge®?

While risk to the general public from the use of **Scourge®** may be minimal, avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following some common sense actions:

- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages, or distributed by municipal, county, or state agencies.
- Plan your activities to limit time spent outside during times of possible pesticide treatments.
- Keep children's toys indoors.
- Keep your pets, their food, water dishes, and toys indoors.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.
- Whenever possible, remain indoors with windows closed and with window air conditioners on non-vent (closed to the outside air) and window fans turned off during spraying.
- Avoid direct contact with surfaces that are still wet from pesticide spraying. Do not allow children to play in areas that have been sprayed until they have completely dried (approximately one hour).
- If you must remain outdoors, avoid eye and skin contact with the spray. If you get spray in your eyes or on your skin, immediately flush and rinse with water.

What are the symptoms of exposure to Scourge®?

Irritation or sensitization sometimes occurs after exposure, causing an asthmatic condition or skin rash. The chance of experiencing these symptoms of exposure with proper use is low. 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 these symptoms following a pesticide spraying. Bring this sheet with you if you visit a physician or other medical provider.

How long will Scourge® last in the environment?

Pyrethroid spray stays in the air for a short time until it lands on surfaces. Pyrethroids have a low persistence and break down in water and soil within 1 to 25 days. Pyrethroids break down faster in sunlight. The EPA cites that pyrethroids do not pose unreasonable risks to wildlife or the environment when used as part of a mosquito control program.

Where can I get more information on Scourge®?

The following are resources for more information regarding **Scourge®** and mosquito control in your area (unless otherwise noted, available during normal business hours):

For overall pesticide-specific information
9:30am to 7:30pm:
National Pesticide Information Center **800-858-7378**

For pesticide health information
& possible exposures – 24 hours:
New Jersey Poison Information
& Education System **800-222-1222**

For pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:
NJDEP Pesticide Control Program **609-984-6507**

For pesticide regulation:
USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs **877-251-4575**

For state-wide mosquito control information:
NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination **609-292-3649**

For mosquito control recommendations:
Rutgers University, Department of Entomology **732-932-9774**

For local mosquito control information:
Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division **732-542-3630**

For health related pesticide information:
The Monmouth County Health Department **732-431-7456**