

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Suffolk Public Works – Division of Mosquito Control
Detects Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)**

SUFFOLK, Va. (June 28, 2009) The City of Suffolk confirms positive tests for Eastern Equine Encephalitis in mosquitoes and sentinel chicken flocks. Mosquito collections in the areas of Jericho Ditch, Hosier Rd, Freeney Ave., Suburban Woods, Wonderland Forest, Chuckatuck and Rivercliff have tested positive for the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Mosquito testing is used to determine periods of increased viral activity. "We want to let the citizens know that EEE is present in these areas and everyone should protect themselves while engaging in outdoor activities" advised Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Mosquito Control. EEE is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause mild-flu like illness, severe illness, coma, or death. No human or equine cases of EEE have been reported in the City of Suffolk.

Mosquito Control operations are intensifying their efforts in these areas as a result of the EEE positive test confirmations. Increased mosquito surveillance, treatment of standing water, and evening spray applications for adult mosquitoes are being administered.

You can greatly decrease your chances of contracting mosquito borne diseases like EEE and WNV by protecting yourself from excessive mosquito bites while outdoors by following these recommendations:

- Remain indoors during times of greatest mosquito activity
 - (1 hour before dusk to 1 hour before dawn)
- Wear loose, long, and light-colored clothing when outdoors

- Use insect repellants containing DEET according to the label instructions.

You can contribute by eliminating mosquito-breeding areas around your home and neighborhood by following these steps:

- Empty water-holding containers:
 - buckets, drums, bottles, tin cans, wheel barrows, potted plant trays, etc.
- Properly dispose used tires.
- Clear roof gutters, downspouts and corrugated black drainpipes for any water collection.
- Clean wading and swimming pools
- Drain water from tarps
- Place Mosquito Dunks in stagnant water areas around your home which include ditches and low lying areas

Placing Mosquito Dunks in stagnant water habitats is a common practice used to eliminate mosquito larvae. Free Mosquito Dunks are available to Suffolk citizens at your local fire station or the Municipal Center located at 441 Market St. In order to get your free Mosquito Dunks you must be 18 years of age or older, have proof of residence in the City of Suffolk, proper picture identification and sign the "Information Sheet" at the fire station.

For more information concerning Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus refer to the following links to Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/DEE/Vectorborne/factsheets/eee.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/Arbor/eeefact.htm>

For further information contact Suffolk Mosquito Control at 757-514-7609.

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