

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2008



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Suffolk Mosquito Control Suggests Precautions in Wake of Positive West Nile Tests

SUFFOLK, Va. (September 22, 2008) The City of Suffolk confirms positive tests for West Nile Virus in mosquitoes in some areas of the City. Mosquito collections in the areas of Lake Kennedy, Lloyd Street, and North Street have tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV).

WNV is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause mild-flu like illness to severe illness. No human cases of WNV have been reported in the City of Suffolk. Mosquito testing is used to determine periods of increased risk of contracting West Nile Virus. "We want to let the citizens know that West Nile Virus is present in Suffolk and everyone should use precautions while engaging in outdoor activities" advised Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Mosquito Control.

Mosquito Control operations have increased efforts. Increased mosquito surveillance, treatment of standing water, and evening spray applications for adult mosquitoes are being administered.

Mosquito Controls suggests 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. 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 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/westnilevirus.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

For more information about Suffolk Mosquito Control call:

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