

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mosquito Population Swells in the Wake of Irene

SUFFOLK, VA (September 9, 2011) – Hurricane Irene is being blamed for a rise in the number of mosquitoes in Suffolk. The storm's torrential rains dumped up to 10-inches in parts of the city, creating pools of standing water, which are ideal breeding grounds for the insect. A mosquito trap in the city recently captured some 3,000 mosquitoes in just one night, signaling a rapid increase in the mosquito population.

The City is working diligently to abate mosquitoes amid the rapid population increase, which include increased mosquito surveillance, treatment of standing water, and evening spray applications for adult mosquitoes. Mosquitoes found in traps are being tested for diseases, including West Nile Virus and EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis).

You can greatly decrease your chances of mosquito bites while outdoors by following these recommendations:

- Remain indoors during times of greatest mosquito activity.
 - (one hour before dusk to one hour before dawn)
- Wear loose, long, and light-colored clothing when outdoors.
- Use insect Repellants containing DEET according to the label instructions.
- Placing oscillating fans outside to blow mosquitoes away from areas you will be occupying.

Suffolk Municipal Channel 8 is currently running an informative video which addresses mosquito control and measures the City is taking to combat the problem. The program also highlights ways that citizens can help, which include:

- 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 local fire stations. 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 about Suffolk Mosquito Control, please contact Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Suffolk Mosquito Control, at 514-7609.

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