

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Suffolk Announces Aerial Mosquito Control

SUFFOLK, VA (September 13, 2011) – The City of Suffolk, in collaboration with mosquito control from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will perform a Mosquito spraying operation tonight, weather permitting, between the hours of 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. Some areas in the City may be at increased risk for mosquito borne disease due to large increases in mosquito populations in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

“Mosquito populations have increased dramatically in the wake of Hurricane Irene, and that could mean an increase in the incidence of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE),” explained Charles Abadam, Mosquito Control Superintendent for the City of Suffolk. “To combat this, the city will receive aerial spraying for mosquitoes in addition to the truck mounted spray applications that we currently administer. Those areas not directly in the aerial spray zone will receive pesticide spray applications to relieve and protect citizens in these areas.”

The areas to be sprayed include:

- All residential areas in and around Downtown Suffolk and northward to the James River on both sides of the Nansemond River.
- Holland
- Whaleyville

These areas were chosen based on their population density, and conditions in the wake of Hurricane Irene which have contributed to significant mosquito breeding. Spray areas do not extend more than approximately one-half mile out from the edge of each town.

The spraying will be a very low volume application of the insecticide Dibrom, also called Naled. Dibrom is registered for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is used primarily for controlling adult mosquitoes. When applied in accordance with the label's rate of application and safety precautions, Dibrom can be used without endangering human health or the environment. It is not harmful to pets, fish, birds or livestock. Dibrom is toxic to insects, including honeybees. Concerned beekeepers should cover hives in damp cloth or burlap to protect bee populations during spraying.

“Mosquito populations and the diseases that they carry will be monitored closely. West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis remain active and will continue to be a threat to humans for several weeks. In addition to aerial spraying and ground pesticide application we must rely on the public to use personal protection and to remove standing water around homes to reduce the risk of mosquito bites and disease transmission,” said Charles Abadam.

Due to the very low concentrations of Dibrom used to control mosquitoes during aerial spraying, adverse health effects are not expected. However, VDH offers

the following suggestions to concerned individuals who wish to reduce exposure to insecticides during spraying:

- Pay attention to local radio and newspapers for the spray schedule.
- Remain indoors when insecticides are sprayed in your immediate area.
- If you are outside during spraying, avoid getting spray in your eyes. If you get insecticide in your eyes, rinse them immediately with water.
- Keep children inside during spraying operations.
- Close windows and doors before spraying begins.
- Window unit air conditioners maybe turned off or set to “recirculate” mode so outside air does not enter the house during spraying.

For more information contact, Charles Abadam at 514-7609.

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