

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Suffolk Public Works – Division of Mosquito Control
notes West Nile Virus and EEE activity throughout the city.**

SUFFOLK, VA. (August 25, 2010)

The City of Suffolk has received positive confirmation of diseases in mosquitoes and sentinel chicken flocks. Mosquito collections and Sentinel Chicken Flocks in the areas of Market Street, Pine Street, Freeney Avenue, Lloyd Street, Lake Kennedy area, Suburban Woods, Wonderland Forest, Burbage Grant, and the Great Dismal Swamp have tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). Mosquito collections and Sentinel Chicken Flocks in the Lake Kennedy area, Suburban Woods area and the Great Dismal Swamp have tested positive for the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Mosquito testing is used to determine periods of increased risk of contracting West Nile Virus. "Suffolk citizens should know that there is increased WNV and EEE activity in these areas and they should take the necessary actions to protect themselves while engaging in outdoor activities" advised Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Mosquito Control. WNV and EEE are mosquito-borne diseases that can cause mild-flu like illness to severe illness. No human cases of WNV or EEE have been reported in the City of Suffolk.

Mosquito Control operations are intensifying their efforts in these areas as a result of the WNV and 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 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 stations 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10. 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. Mosquito Dunks can also be purchased at local retail stores.

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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