

The Buzz

Volume 12, 1
May/June 2014

The Buzz is back for its 12th year! The Buzz is a monthly summary used to disseminate important information about mosquitoes and mosquito control in the City of Portsmouth.

Despite the cold winter and cool spring this mosquito season has kicked into high gear. Above average rain fall has helped generate plenty of adult mosquitoes. The trapping data show a steady increase in mosquito populations the past two months. Current control efforts are focused on treating standing water for mosquito larvae and truck fogging when the weather permits.



Figure 1 Shows an array of recommended insect repellants that will keep you and your family safe and comfortable outside. Make sure to follow the label for each use.

Service Requests

- Service requests have been lower than expected, but calls will increase as the season progresses.
- It is important when citizens call, to please provide: your name, address, and phone number, this ensures that we get back to you in a timely matter and can effectively help you when you call.

Surveillance Activities

- Rain for April and May were both above average. Long range weather forecast are for continued wet conditions. The increase of rain will contribute to higher mosquito activity later on.
- Adult mosquito trapping began in April and will continue thru October. April averaged 9 mosquitoes per trap night. May the average jumped way up to 293 per trap. The largest trap counts are coming around wooded areas.

Control Activities

- City staff started treating standing water in March. Current efforts are focused on treating ditches, storm drains, and wooded areas throughout the city.
- Truck fogging for adult mosquitoes started in early May and will continue thru October/November. This year we have truck fogged just over 10,000 acres, well above normal.
- Residents can call The Mosquito Hotline to find out when areas are going to be sprayed. The Hotline is a recorded message about scheduled spray activities please call 393-8666 and ask for The Mosquito Hotline. After 4 pm call 393-8666 and enter extension 7324.

Federal Activities

- City and Army Corps of Engineers staff continue to meet and coordinate mosquito control activities.
- Aerial Spraying is projected to start in June or July this season. City and Corps staff will evaluate conditions on the ground and direct efforts as needed.

Mosquito Tips

- Get into the habit early of using insect repellants for extended time outside.
- Wear long sleeved, loose fitting clothing
- Make sure you are doing your part by keeping yards clean and free of anything that has the potential of holding water. If you have questions or concerns, please give us a call.