

The Buzz

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The Buzz is a monthly summary used to disseminate important information about mosquitoes and mosquito control in the City of Portsmouth.

June came with warm temperatures and above average rainfall and the mosquitoes followed. Mosquito trap counts have been elevated from all the recent rainfall. July will also be a very busy month if conditions remain the same.



Zach Jones, Mosquito Spray Technician, sorts through a mosquito trap catch. Mosquitoes are trapped and counted each week from sites all over the city.

Mosquito Facts

Recently some residents have called to request the spray truck slow down when spraying. All spray trucks are set up to spray between 3 and 22 miles per hour. If a driver is moving faster than 22 miles per hour an alarm goes off inside the cab of the truck and the sprayer shuts down. In addition, all of our spray trucks are equipped with a Global Position System (GPS) that tracks and records the truck speed and sprayer parameters. The spray records for each application are reviewed to ensure proper application and performance of the spray system.

Service Requests

- We have received 54 service requests this year, most have been caused by salt marsh mosquitoes.
- It is important when citizens call, please provide: your name, address, and phone number.

Surveillance Activities

- We had three weeks in June with over 1 inch of rain, perfect for mosquito breeding.
- We had 44 mosquito trap nights averaging 72 mosquitoes per trap in June.

Control Activities

- City staff are treating standing water in ditches and catch basins throughout the city during the day and truck fogging in the evenings and some mornings.
- All spray routes were sprayed before the July 4th holiday week.
- Year to date we have sprayed over 26,000 acres, this is 20,000 acres more than the same time last year.
- 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 staff continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- City and ACOE are meeting on site weekly surveying conditions and conducting ground treatments.
- A large dredging project scheduled to begin the first part of July should help reduce mosquito breeding.
- City and Corps staff are working to schedule an aerial spraying as early as next week.