

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.

July is normally the peak of the mosquito season. Above average rainfall in July helped keep mosquito populations elevated. The long range forecast for August is for more wet weather. Staff will work to schedule control efforts over the next few weeks to provide the most impact.



Crabbe Aviation loading a plane with 2,000 pounds of granular larvicide. Crabbe Aviation treated approximately 670 acres of standing water on Craney Island July 27, 2013.

Service Requests

- We have received 75 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

- July was above average for rain fall, we had over 1" of rain two out of the last four weeks.
- Mosquito trap counts were also up in July. We had 52 mosquito trap nights averaging 100 mosquitoes per trap. This was up slightly from the June average of 72 mosquitoes per trap night..

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.
- In July we truck fogged just over 20,000 acres, this brings our year to date total to just over 47,000 acres. All spray routes were sprayed at least one time in July.
- 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 (ACOE).
- City and ACOE are meeting on site weekly surveying conditions and conducting ground treatments.
- A dredging project started in early July, this has helped reduce some mosquito breeding areas. The dredging is scheduled to continue through September/October. Conditions are projected to improve slowly over the next two months.
- The Air Force Aerial Spray team returned to our area after a two year hiatus. On July 25th they sprayed for adult mosquitoes in and around Craney Island.
- On July 27th an aerial contractor (Crabbe Aviation) treated 670 acres for mosquito larvae.
- Additional aerial sprayings for adult mosquitoes are scheduled for August. Weather permitting:
 - Contractor aerial spraying (week of August 5th)
 - Air Force Aerial Spray Team spraying (week of August 26th)