

# 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.

We might have dodged the bullet on Hurricane Arthur but the current rainfall we've been having will ensure the mosquito population is going nowhere. Current control efforts are focused on treating standing water for mosquito larvae and truck fogging when the weather permits.

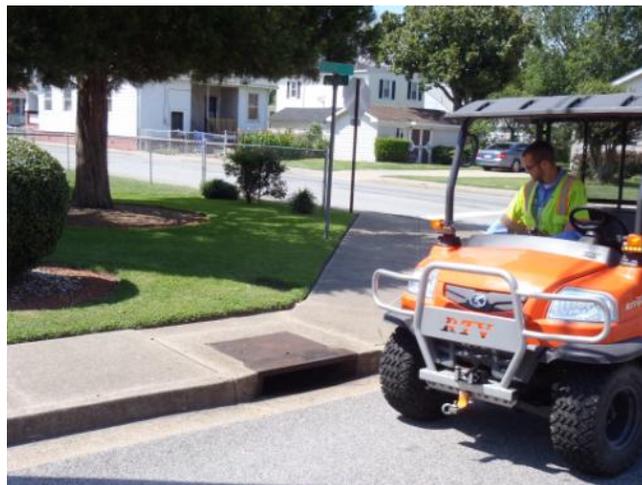


Figure 1: Crews treat catch basins with larvicides using an all-terrain vehicle equipped with a spray tank.

## Service Requests

- Service requests have been low with a total just under 30 calls.
- 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

- We had about 6 inches of rain in June while in July we have already had over 4 inches and are expected to see more in the coming weeks. The increase of rain will continue to contribute to mosquito population increases.
- June averaged 218 mosquitoes per trap night with a total of 29 trap nights. Numbers are slightly lower from May but rain fall in July could possibly increase these numbers.

## Control Activities

- Current efforts are focused on treating ditches, storm drains, and wooded areas throughout the city.
- Truck fogging continues, we determine what areas to spray from trap numbers as long as weather permits. So far this year, over 30,000 acres have been sprayed throughout the City of Portsmouth.
- 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.

## Mosquito Tips

- **Follow the 3D's** to keep you and your family safe during the summer months
  - **Drain**– Kill mosquitoes before they have a chance to breed or hatch by eliminating standing water around your house or potential breeding sources. Did your toddler leave his toy truck out in the rain? Did you leave a bucket out by the flower bed? Look through your yard for popular mosquito hangouts and dump the water.
  - **Dress**– If it's not too hot, wear long sleeves, pants, and socks when outdoors. Use insect repellent on exposed skin. Mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing, so spray insect repellent on your clothes for extra protection.
  - **DEET**– What repellents are safe? The CDC recommends products containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products. Make sure to follow package directions and wash all repellents off with warm soapy water once you return indoors. For info on insect repellent use and safety visit <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/repellent.html>