

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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Mosquito Update

July 7, 2010

PRESENT CONTROL STATUS:

NUISANCE MOSQUITOES

Nuisance floodwater mosquitoes (*Aedes vexans*) are at above average levels due to weekly rainfalls. Multiple floodwater mosquito broods have progressively added to the problem despite control efforts. Flooding throughout the District on 6/2, 6/8, 6/18, 6/23 & 6/27 continues to produce additional floodwater mosquitoes.

Crews continue to treat infested flood water areas for the developing mosquito larvae with methoprene, MMF (mono-molecular films), oil or Bti after each rainfall. Keeping up with all the standing water has been difficult but is now improving after a week of little rainfall.

CULEX MOSQUITOES

Culex mosquitoes are increasing due to warmer temperatures. Residents of the District are still advised to inspect their properties for stagnant water filled containers that may produce these types of mosquitoes.

Examples of mosquito production areas encountered by homeowners can be viewed at:

http://www.nwmadil.com/breeding_sites1.htm. Residents should also apply insect repellents when outdoors after dusk. *Culex* mosquitoes may transmit West Nile virus and they are especially active after sunset.

Recommended insect repellents, barrier sprays and larvicides may be viewed at:

http://www.nwmadil.com/pest_products.htm.

Crews are currently treating stagnant ground surface water sources with methoprene pellets, MMFG, Bti & *Bacillus sphaericus*. Catch basin treatments are in progress and near completion. *Culex pipiens* larvae have been prevalent in ditches culverts and other stagnant water areas after rainfalls and these are being treated at the same time as the nuisance mosquitoes after rainfalls.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: typically when rainfall is excessive at weekly intervals, as was during the 2008 mosquito season, stagnant water Culex habitats (ditches, detention & retention ponds, culverts, container sources and underground storm water habitats (catch basins)) tend to flush out and help reduce Culex mosquito numbers. In 2008 this led to a delay of West Nile virus activity of nearly one month. Again, in 2010, we are seeing a delay, albeit somewhat shorter, but still slower WNV activity. If, in July, temperatures climb and rainfall becomes less frequent WNV activity will increase quickly in the mosquito and bird populations.

ADULTICIDING (NIGHT SPRAYING):

Adulticiding operations in 2010 have been hampered due to frequent almost weekly unfavorable weather conditions. Ideally, evening spray temperatures must be 60 degrees or higher (warmer is better) and wind speed should be between 1 to 10 MPH (2-5 MPH is best). Additionally, a temperature inversion (warm air above cooler ground air) helps keep the spray closer to the ground where the mosquitoes are likely to contact it. Unstable air masses (i.e. usually proceeding or during storm fronts) generally disrupt useful temperature inversions.

Tentatively, adulticiding will be scheduled (weather permitting) the week of July 12th in areas with excessive nuisance mosquitoes or abundant *Culex* mosquitoes, especially, if found infected with West Nile virus.

MOSQUITO VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN ILLINOIS

Currently NWMAD has tested **313** batches of mosquitoes for West Nile virus (WNV). One batch of mosquitoes collected from Elk Grove Village tested positive for WNV on 6/28.

No human cases of WNV have been reported in the State of Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has reported that 8 batches of mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile virus from Cook (Oak Lawn (1), Elk Grove Village (1)- pending confirmation from IDPH), Gallatin (1), Rock Island (1), St. Clair (1) and Tazewell (4) counties thus far in 2010. IDPH has also listed 12 birds positive for WNV in Illinois.

More information about WNV can be found on the state's website www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm or by calling 217-782-5830. The State's website also has other valuable resource links on WNV, pesticides and mosquito control.

NWMAD WEBSITE:

Report 10-day standing water problem: http://www.nwmadil.com/water_source_rpt.htm

Report sick/dead birds or other animals: http://www.nwmadil.com/Dead_Birds.html

Check night time mosquito spraying schedules: http://www.nwmadil.com/nitespry_map.html

REDUCING THE RISK OF MOSQUITO BITES:

Avoid outdoor activity if possible from dusk to dawn when the mosquitoes bite the most. If you do go out wear light colored, loose fitting, protective clothing and insect repellent (always read label warnings and directions). Make sure mosquitoes do not enter homes through unscreened or broken doors or windows. Residents are encouraged not to create mosquito harborage areas. Make sure tall grassy areas are trimmed and other unnecessary vegetation is cut back. If plants must be watered do so in the morning so the vegetation and soil has a chance to dry making it less attractive to mosquitoes. Empty any containers holding stagnating water for 5 days or longer like: tire casings, birdbaths, flowerpots and barrels that may produce mosquitoes. Make sure rain barrels or other storm water runoff cisterns are fitted properly when installed, well screened, free of detritus or organic material and mosquito-proof. Neglected swimming pools may produce thousands of mosquitoes. Call the District to report large stagnant water areas that remain wet for more than 7 days.

Mike Szyska
Director

PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.