



Bald Head Association Resources

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Mosquitoes After Heavy Rains & Flooding

Heavy rains and flooding can lead to large populations of mosquitoes. Some mosquitoes carry viruses that may cause illnesses such as La Crosse encephalitis, West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis.

Aerial spraying will reduce mosquito populations but will not eliminate them entirely. Protect yourself with the tips below. You can help reduce the mosquito population by eliminating mosquito habitats — empty any outdoor containers that hold water around your home and use insecticide “donuts” to prevent mosquito larvae from hatching.

County-wide aerial spraying for mosquitoes, part of Brunswick County’s emergency response to the flooding and heavy rainfall caused by Hurricane Florence, is planned to continue during the week of October 1, 2018.

Crews are scheduled to begin October 2, 2018 with spraying the islands of Brunswick County, including Bald Head Island. Ground-based operations will begin follow-up ground spraying as soon as areas are identified.

Aerial Spraying & Insecticides

Q. How is an insecticide chosen for use in aerial spraying?

A. State and local officials make the decision on what insecticide(s) to use for aerial spraying. The decision is based on the results of insecticide resistance testing in the target area.

EPA-registered insecticides are used for aerial spraying.

EPA-registered insecticides have been studied for their effectiveness and safety when used according to label instructions.

Aerial spraying is only one part of the solution for controlling mosquitoes, but it is the one method that can rapidly reduce the number of mosquitoes spreading Zika in a large area. It is the most effective method when large areas must be treated quickly.

Aerial Spraying & Human Health

Q. Is aerial spraying of insecticides dangerous/harmful to human health?

A. No, during aerial spraying, a small amount of insecticide is sprayed over an area, about 1 ounce (two tablespoons) per acre or about the size of a football field.

This small amount does not pose a health risk to people or pets in the area that is sprayed.

When aerial spraying is done correctly, it does not cause asthma attacks.

There is a possibility that spraying of a larvicide, like Bti, can cause eye irritation if a person is outside and looking up when spraying takes place.

EPA-registered products are used for aerial spraying. The label instructions are followed by a licensed professional.

If people prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors when spraying takes place they can, but it is not necessary.

During aerial spraying for mosquitoes, avoid being outside during evening hours if possible.

Aerial spraying will be from just before dusk until approximately 10:30pm.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- avoid being outside at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active
- apply mosquito repellent with DEET (follow label directions and keep out of eyes, mouth and nose)