

# DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL

May 2018

Some of the spring mosquitoes hatched in time to join us for the Memorial Day holiday. Though they do not have the disease carrying potential that the later season mosquito does, the annoyance they provide is felt by all of us. Dragon has a fully trained crew in place that is ready for a summer of larviciding salt marshes and permanent fresh water sites, treating thousands of catch basins, trapping mosquitoes and spraying adult mosquitoes as needed.

The month of May, while beautiful and a welcome change, was warmer than average. Warm, humid weather provides ideal conditions for disease carrying vectors. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns and higher frequency of extreme weather events are likely to increase the length of the mosquito season while warmer weather accelerates the mosquito life cycle. Ticks also thrive in warm, moist weather.

Dragon crews are in the wetlands by day larviciding mosquito larvae habitats and by night we spray fields, trails for mosquitoes and ticks. While we continue doing all we can do to reduce mosquito and tick populations, remember personal protection is a key component in reducing exposure to vector borne disease whether they are spread by mosquitoes or ticks.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is a valuable source of information on both mosquitoes and ticks. They remind us that the most effective way to avoid getting sick from viruses spread by mosquitoes when at home and during travel is to prevent mosquito bites. Avoiding areas where ticks are likely to be, treating your clothes with repellents, tuck your pants into your socks and checking yourself after being outside are all important ways to minimize your exposure to ticks. To learn more, check out the comprehensive information CDC provides at <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0501-vs-vector-borne.html>.

As we move into June, adult mosquito trapping will begin. Traps are set in a variety of locations throughout the town each week through mid-October. The Dragon entomologist identifies adult mosquitoes to species and the State Lab will begin testing the mosquitoes for Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus in July. Dragon may also begin treating catch basins in June which targets mosquitoes that spread West Nile Virus. This is one of your best chances to see our crews in action. This process takes most of the summer and tens of thousands of catch basins are treated.

Dragon continues to work hard to reduce the disease carrying mosquito population. We hope you will have a safe summer by doing all you can to avoid the bite whether it is mosquito or tick. Prevention is so much better than a cure.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dragon Mosquito Control