Mosquito Control:

What You Need to Know About Truck Spraying

Mosquito control districts or local government departments track mosquito populations to learn where viruses, like Zika or West Nile, are spreading in a community. Spraying insecticides from a truck is one way to safely kill mosquitoes in an area, especially when people in the community are getting sick from mosquito bites. There are different types of sprayers that can be put on a truck.

Truck spraying is used to:

- Control and reduce the number of mosquitoes that can spread viruses.
- Reduce your chances of getting infected with viruses.

What are mosquito control trucks spraying?

Mosquito control trucks spray very small amounts of insecticide into the air to kill mosquitoes. This spray is a fine mist that acts as a fogger in the area. Mosquito control districts or local government departments will choose what type of insecticide to use in an area.

What does the insecticide spray do?

Adulticide sprays immediately kill flying mosquitoes. Larvicide sprays kill mosquito larvae that hatch from eggs and lasts longer than adulticide sprays. Both products will temporarily reduce mosquito populations in an area, but will not permanently get rid of them.

When does spraying occur?

Spraying takes place in the early evening when mosquitoes are more active. Often, local government agencies or mosquito control districts announce the dates and times of spraying in the local newspaper, on district websites, through public service announcements, by telephone, or through door-to-door notices.

How often do communities spray?

After spraying, mosquito control districts or local government departments will track mosquito populations and treat an area again as necessary to reduce the chances of people getting bitten by mosquitoes that can spread viruses.

Is the spray harmful to people, pets, animals, or the environment?

No, when done correctly, truck spaying will not harm people, pets, animals, or the environment.

What should I do during or after spraying?

Spraying is safe. You do not need to leave an area when truck spraying for mosquito control takes place. If you prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors when spraying takes place you can, but it is not necessary. If you are having any type of health problems after spraying, contact your doctor or healthcare provider. The spray does not harm pets, but you may choose to bring them inside when spraying occurs.



Mosquito control truck spraying insecticide into the air
Photo courtesy of Ed Freytag, City of New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board



A truck with a different type of sprayer on the back.

Information on Insecticides and Health:

- The US Environmental Protection Agency oversees the registration of these chemicals.
- The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) provides information online or through a toll-free number, 1-800-858-7378.

If you are experiencing health problems for any reason, see your doctor or healthcare provider.

Mosquito Control: You Have Options.

Learn more: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/controlling-mosquitoes-at-home.html

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