

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.

- Record heat in June transferred to much of July. Dry conditions also dominated July. For the first time since we have been keeping records no mosquito complaints were recorded in the month of July. The dominant mosquito pest remains the tiger mosquito. Staff continues to do everything we can to manage mosquito populations in the city.

Surveillance and Control

- Trap counts have been steadily decreasing through the month of July. We have yet to trap enough mosquitoes to send off for virus testing this season. Trap counts are projected to spike over the next two weeks due to last weeks rain.
- We had almost 3 inches of rain last week. Surveys of roadside and back ditches are encouraging as many areas are dry despite the heavy rain. We are predicting a temporary spike in saltmarsh mosquitoes later this week in to next week. Containers are going to be a major mosquito producer because of the rain. Surveys indicate that mosquitoes are actively breeding in containers. Now is the time to dump out all standing water around your house.
- Truck fogging in the month of July was largely non existent as we did not have enough mosquitoes to justify spraying. Spray activities are projected to resume in full force by mid next week. For information about spray activities call 393-8666 and press 1 when prompted.

Service Requests

- Complaint calls remain well below normal, however they are expected to spike over the next two weeks as mosquito populations rapidly expand due to the rain.
- Service requests are important for us. We track complaint calls and use that data with the mosquito trap data to assign priority for spray treatments. It is important when citizens call please be prepared to provide your name, address, phone number, or email address.

Federal Activities

- Staff continue to meet and coordinate activities; we are currently evaluating conditions and adjusting control strategies to provide the most effective results.

Special Note

- By mid August this year we will complete our transition to water based pesticides used to spray for adult mosquitoes. Over the past two years we have been testing water based products. We have done some extensive testing and are confident we are getting the same kill ratios as seen with oil based products. The water based formulations are more environmentally friendly since water is the major component not oil. We also will realize some savings due to the reduced shipping costs as concentrates are diluted with water not with oil we have to have shipped in. The product is much cleaner and easier to work with, we do not have as much trouble with pesticide and or oil residue on the spray truck and sprayer. An added benefit is the water based flushing solutions is now windshield washer fluid not ethanol or solvent based.