



News Release

Escambia County
Office of Public Information and Communications
34 West Government Street, Pensacola FL 32501

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News Release #05-0718-mosquito

Escambia County Asks Residents to Take Precautions Against Mosquitoes Hurricane Dennis Contributes to Increased Risk of Disease

Escambia County is asking residents to take extra precautions in protecting themselves from mosquitoes in the aftermath of Hurricane Dennis. The combination of people spending more time outside in clean-up efforts and the creation of new water holding habitats in the root systems of downed trees, boats, troughs, and hurricane debris have increased the risk of mosquito-borne human disease.

Evidence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis transmitting mosquitoes has been confirmed in the Blue Angel Parkway and Alekai Road areas. Generally only those people who live in typical breeding places are at increased risk. The EEE mosquitoes live in swampy areas and prefer cool, dark places like barns, stables, woodsheds, corncribs and under eaves. People living near freshwater swamps, especially where Cypress trees grow, should take precautions to avoid EEE mosquitoes.

Escambia County will be targeting the following areas with Ultra-Low Volume fogging this evening, weather permitting:

- **MILLVIEW & PLEASANT GROVE**
 - North – Perdido Bay
 - South – Intracoastal Canal
 - East – Dog Track Road - eastside
 - West – Dog Track Road - westside

- **SAUFLEY FIELD & SW KLONDIKE RD**
 - North – Mobile Highway
 - South – Lillian Highway
 - East – Blue Angel Parkway
 - West – Intersection of Mobile Highway & Blue Angel Parkway

- **BELLVIEW AREA**
 - North – Intersection of Mobile Highway & Blue Angel Parkway
 - South – Cerny Road & Marlane drive

George Touart, County Administrator
Sonya M. Smith, Public Information Manager

East – Mobile Highway
West – Blue Angel Parkway

Bob Betts, Chief of Escambia Mosquito Control Division, states that the county is dedicated to controlling the mosquito population. In addition to county efforts, he stresses that the public can play a vital role in protecting themselves from mosquito bites by following the “5 D’s,” which include:

- **Dusk and Dawn** – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species, this is during the dusk and dawn hours.
- **Dress** – Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- **DEET** – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are other repellent options.
- **Drainage** – Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, which is where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

In addition, horse owners should check their horse’s shot records and consult with their veterinarian on its accuracy and updating. Along with those cleaning up outside after Hurricane Dennis, horse owners should wear long sleeves and pants while caring for their horses. While there is a vaccine for horses, there is no vaccine or cure for humans.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis is a mosquito-borne viral disease. Symptoms range from mild flu-like illness to inflammation of the brain, coma and death. The EEE case fatality rate is 35 percent, making it one of the most serious mosquito-borne diseases in the United States. Approximately 35 percent who survive EEE will have mild to severe neurological deficits. The United States averages about four cases per year, mostly in Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Horses and humans are “dead end” hosts, meaning that once infected, they cannot transmit the disease to others. Only infected mosquitoes can transmit this disease. According to the Center for Disease Control, high-risk groups include residents of and visitors to areas with an established presence of the virus, people who engage in outdoor work and recreational activities, and those persons over age 50 and younger than age 15.

Residents are encouraged to call the Escambia County Mosquito Control Division to request an investigation of an area of concern at (850) 595-3147. Please be advised that a request for an investigation does not guarantee that an area will qualify for fogging.

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