



Questions and Answers

Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community.

Mosquito control in New Jersey is mandated under Title 26, Chapters 3 and 9, of the New Jersey Health Statutes. Each county in New Jersey is responsible for providing mosquito control for its citizens. Passaic County Mosquito Control aims to reduce the number of nuisance and disease-transmitting mosquitoes throughout Passaic County. In providing this service to residents, we employ a number of methods collectively referred to as Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM). These methods can be summarized as follows:

Public Education – Passaic County Mosquito Control educates the public about the role that residents share in mosquito control through the use of the county website, frequent talks to senior citizens groups and school students, monthly meetings with local health officials, participation in local health fairs, and publication and dispersal of informative brochures and door hangers.

Water Management – After mosquito eggs hatch, mosquitoes begin their life as larvae in stagnant water. Passaic County Mosquito Control carries out extensive efforts to remove blockages from waterways in the county, maintaining drainage systems as needed. Water management is done carefully, while recognizing the potential environmental impact of such work.

Larval Control – In areas where water management is not feasible, larval control is necessary. One example of larval control employed is biological control, or “bio-control.” The stocking of mosquitofish and/or copepods are a couple of examples of bio-control. But in areas not suitable for bio-control, larvicides may be used to eliminate mosquito larvae. Applied by licensed operators/applicators, larvicides are used in waterbodies containing immature, larval mosquitoes.

Adult Control – As a last resort of controlling mosquitoes, Passaic County Mosquito Control employs a technique of adulticiding known as “ULV.” When adult control is needed because of a severe mosquito infestation, or findings of viral activity, licensed personnel use a truck-mounted or ATV-mounted sprayer to apply an ‘ultra-low volume’ of insecticide.

Q: What can the general public do to reduce mosquito incidence?

A: Since mosquito larvae require stagnant water as their habitat, elimination of standing water will result in decreased mosquito populations. Anything capable of holding water for several days or longer should be considered a potential mosquito habitat. Some examples of artificial containers that can serve as ideal larval habitat for mosquitoes are: unmaintained swimming pools, kiddie pools, cans, buckets, wheel barrows, trash cans, recycling containers, bird baths, ornamental ponds, tarps, children’s toys, clogged roof gutters, flexible downspouts, dishes under flowerpots, and tires. Passaic County Mosquito



Control can offer control advice for specific situations. Individual municipalities can offer their residents advice on tire recycling.

Q: How can I protect myself from mosquitoes?

A: The following steps can be taken to reduce the frequency of mosquito bites and the risk of mosquito-borne disease transmission:

- Avoid mosquito habitat such as shaded areas where mosquitoes rest
- Limit outdoor activity during peak mosquito activity
- Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Use an insect repellent, following the manufacturer's recommendations/instructions

Q: Why does Passaic County Mosquito Control perform adult mosquito control?

A: Passaic County Mosquito Control employs an Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) approach to control mosquitoes. Education, source reduction, water management, stocking of mosquito-eating fish, and mosquito larval control are all utilized to control mosquitoes before they reach the adult stage. Even though control of mosquitoes is generally most efficiently accomplished in the immature stages, conditions may sometimes necessitate the use of adulticides (adult mosquito control pesticides). Adult mosquito control is a small portion of our entire mosquito control program and is the last resort after all other methods have been attempted.

Q: How is adulticiding done?

A: The technique of ultra-low volume (ULV) spraying is employed, using properly calibrated equipment that may be handheld, or mounted onto a truck or all-terrain vehicle (ATV), under label mandated and state recommended conditions.

Q: Which adulticides are utilized?

A: Passaic County Mosquito Control may utilize any of three pesticides for controlling adult mosquitoes: "Fyfanon® ULV", "Fyfanon® EW", and/or "DUET® Dual-Action" adulticides. Fyfanon® ULV and Fyfanon® EW contain the active ingredient **malathion**, whereas DUET® Dual-Action contains the synthetic pyrethroids **prallethrin** and **sumithrin**, and a synergist, **piperonyl butoxide**. These pesticides are registered for mosquito adulticiding by both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the NJ State Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). All personnel applying pesticides are licensed by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

Q: What are the possible acute (short-term) health effects that may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to malathion?

A: Contact may possibly irritate eyes and the respiratory tract, and in severe cases may cause headaches, sweating, nausea, and vomiting. Consult your physician for any health evaluations. Generally, community residents are at a much lower risk than mosquito



control workers since the likelihood of becoming sick from chemicals is increased as the amount of exposure increases. This is determined by the length of time and the amount of material to which someone is exposed. The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) phone number is **1 (800) 222-1222**.

Q: What are the possible acute (short-term) health effects that may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to pyrethroids?

A: Symptoms of over-exposure can include irritation to skin and eyes, respiratory and nasal irritation, irritability to sound or touch, abnormal facial sensation, sensation of prickling, tingling, or creeping of skin, numbness, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive salivation, and fatigue. The chance of experiencing these symptoms of over-exposure with proper use is low. You should contact your physician, other medical providers, or the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) at **1 (800) 222-1222** if you experience these symptoms following a pesticide spraying.

Q: How can exposure to mosquito adulticides be reduced?

A: General advice when mosquito adulticiding is scheduled includes: closing windows, shutting off inward blowing fans and air conditioners, sheltering pets for their comfort, suspending outdoor activities during the treatment, and removing clothes from outdoor clotheslines. Also, bring children's toys inside. If desired, items left outside can be rinsed with soap and water.

Q: Where can I find more specific information on mosquito adulticiding in Passaic County and how will I be notified of the adulticiding?

A: Passaic County Mosquito Control complies with state regulations regarding newspaper publication of pertinent information in two area newspapers, "The Record" and "Herald News." When mosquito adulticiding is scheduled in Passaic County, times and locations are listed on the Passaic County website: www.passaiccountynj.org/mosquito

Q: Can residents be notified via e-mail when spraying is scheduled in Passaic County?

A: Yes, residents can subscribe to receive 'Mosquito Control updates' by visiting: <https://www.passaiccountynj.org/our-county/news> or, by clicking on the "Subscribe to News" link located at the bottom-right of the main website, www.passaiccountynj.org

Q: Where can more information be obtained?

A: Further information can be obtained by calling Passaic County Mosquito Control at (973) 305-5754. There is voicemail at that number so that messages may be left.