

Mosquito Control Update

March 21, 2012

The District is experiencing a very large mosquito infestation throughout the parish. District personnel are working hard to reduce the mosquito populations. Last week a total of 76,800 acres were aerially sprayed. The areas included Sun, Bush; southeast, southwest, and south central Slidell; south Mandeville, Madisonville, Lacombe, and Big Branch. Two nights of aerial spraying were canceled due to either fog or high winds. In addition, truck mounted sprayers treated about 85% of the parish. High winds have hampered control efforts. When winds exceed 10 mph, the material label does not permit application because the drift cannot be controlled. Many of the treated areas have become re-infested with newly emerged adult mosquitoes and require re-treatment. Weather forecasts for the next 2 days indicate more high winds with heavy rainfall for Wednesday and Thursday. These conditions will again hamper control efforts. The mosquito species causing most of the problems is *Aedes vexans*, the inland floodwater mosquito. This mosquito deposits eggs on soft mud in such areas as potholes, depression areas, and ruts. When rainfall floods the eggs, the lifecycle begins which takes about 5-7 days for adult mosquito emergence. The salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes sollicitans* is also a problem, especially in the coastal areas of the parish. They also are floodwater mosquitoes that deposit eggs in soft mud and hatch when flooded by high tides in the marsh or rainfall. Aerial spray treatments were canceled for Monday and Tuesday nights and will be canceled for Wednesday and most probably Thursday night also. Truck spraying was conducted on Monday night, but was canceled Tuesday night and will be canceled for Wednesday night. These treatments will resume when weather conditions improve. Hopefully, weather conditions will improve by Friday, so that we will be able to dispatch control efforts on a consistent basis to bring the populations to lower levels.