

Mosquito Control Update

May 22, 2013

Larval and adult mosquito activity has increased considerably as a result of the consistent warm temperatures and recent rainfalls. Several floodwater mosquito species such as *Aedes vexans*, *Psorophora ferox*, and *Aedes atlanticus* have risen to nuisance levels in some locations in the parish. The District has also seen an increase in *Anopheles crucians* and *Culex salinarius*, both permanent water mosquitoes that commonly breed and develop in wetland areas such as the marshland. The southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the primary vector for West Nile virus, is also on the rise. This mosquito species breeds in roadside ditches that have a high organic content commonly found in areas where filter beds and septic tanks are utilized for residential waste water treatment.

Over the past two weeks, the entire parish has been treated by a combination of truck mounted sprayers as well as aircraft, with some locations receiving additional treatments, depending on the severity of the mosquito problems. A total of 107,520 acres have been aeri ally sprayed, which included greater Mandeville, greater Slidell, Lacombe, and the Hickory and Talisheek areas. Roadside ditches breeding the southern house mosquito are treated every 6-8 days.

All 530 mosquito pools that have been tested for West Nile virus have returned negative.