

Mosquito Control Update September 14, 2011

Tropical Storm Lee dumped 10-12 inches of rain throughout the parish. On top of the rainfall, tides were about 4 feet above normal which pushed water into the marshes and beyond the marsh tree line in the southern part of the parish. The rainfall and tides flooded extremely large acres of mosquito breeding habitat. Mosquito eggs lying dormant in the woodland areas hatched and within 7 days emerged as adults. The primary species in these areas are *Aedes atlanticus*, *Aedes vexans*, *Psorophora ferox*, and *Psorophora horrida*. Marshland breeding sites flooded by high tides produced the salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes sollicitans*. This species is very aggressive and seeks a blood meal during the day and night. It has a flight range of up to 25 miles. On Monday night, 20,756 acres were aerially treated along the southeast and coastal areas of the parish. Truck mounted sprayers treated areas in Lacombe and eastern Slidell. On Tuesday night another 20,756 acres were aerially treated along the coast from Slidell to Mandeville. Truck mounted sprayers treated areas in Madisonville and north of I-12. Wednesday night another 20,756 acres are planned to be aerially sprayed in the 6th ward for the control of woodland mosquitoes. Truck mounted sprayers are scheduled also to spray areas in Mandeville. Treatments for Thursday and Friday night will be scheduled based on the most heavily infested areas.

The mosquito infestation we are dealing with is an exceptionally large one. It is going to take a few days to be able to get the airplanes and trucks throughout the parish to bring the populations under control. It is also likely that there will be re-infestation as more mosquitoes emerge as adults. As a result re-treatment of some areas will be necessary.