

Mosquito Control Update September 23, 2011

The District has continued with aggressive efforts to reduce the large parish wide populations of woodland breeding mosquitoes. The mosquito populations, produced from the heavy rainfalls from Tropical Storm Lee, are the largest the parish has experienced since Hurricane Katrina. The woodland mosquitoes that have infested the parish are *Psorophora ferox*, *Psorophora howardii*, and *Aedes atlanticus*. These species are aggressive biters, and are especially numerous in the woods, but will migrate out in search of a blood meal. Last week the District aerially treated 105,516 acres while the spray trucks treated many areas throughout the parish. The entire parish was sprayed by either truck or aircraft. Areas in Mandeville, Covington, Slidell, Lacombe, Folsom, and the 6th Ward were aerially treated while other areas were sprayed by truck. Re-treatment of some areas was necessary due to re-infestation.

Ground and aerial treatments were canceled on Monday night, September 19 due to rain and fog. On Tuesday night, 41,513 areas were aerially treated in the Covington, Folsom, Abita Springs, and Madisonville areas. In addition, a large area in the central and west Slidell area was treated by the spray trucks. For Wednesday night, September 21, another 41,513 were aerially treated. Treatment areas included coastal areas from west Slidell to Mandeville, a large area in the Hickory area, the community of St. Tammany and about 5000 acres in north Mandeville and south Covington. In addition, a large area in south, central and west Slidell was treated by the spray trucks. Thursday night, September 22, another 41,500 acres were aerially treated which included Sun, Bush, Talisheek, Hillcrest, and surrounding area. The spray trucks treated an area from southeast Slidell to Pearl River and the Alton area.

Adult mosquito density data collected by biologists and mosquito control inspectors following the treatments indicated very good control. Since this mosquito outbreak was so large and extensive, it is expected there could be some mosquito migration into the treated areas. The District will continue to collect adult mosquito surveillance data to assess problem locations and make adulticide treatments where needed.