

Mosquito Control Update September 24, 2009

St. Tammany Parish is experiencing mosquito population numbers not seen since the year 2000. Weather conditions have been ideal for producing both woodland and marsh breeding mosquitoes. The salt marsh mosquito problem in the southern part of the parish has been improved; however, areas north of Interstate 12 are still experiencing problems with woodland breeding mosquitoes. On Monday, September 20, these mosquito species, namely *Aedes atlanticus*, *Aedes vexans*, and *Psorophora ferox*, began to emerge in large numbers. These mosquitoes deposit eggs on the soil surface in swales, potholes, and depression areas in woodland areas. When rainfall occurs, the eggs hatch and mosquito development begins. Adults begin to emerge 5-7 days after flooding. Some landing rates as high as 40-50 per minute were encountered in locations near sloughs and creek beds where these mosquitoes develop. If the woodland mosquito problem was not enough to deal with, salt marsh mosquitoes in the southern part of the parish once again migrated into populated areas on Monday. Areas of heaviest salt marsh mosquito infestation were once again aeri ally sprayed Monday night. These areas included extreme southeast Slidell, and the Bayou Liberty and Bayou Paquet areas, and south Lacombe. Also on Monday night, a large area north and south of Highways 36 and 434 were aeri ally treated to control woodland breeding mosquitoes. On Tuesday, the salt marsh mosquito problem was greatly improved due to the aerial and truck spraying on Monday night. Large areas in Folsom, Ward 6 and Ward 2 were planned to be sprayed aeri ally on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, but were canceled due to inclement weather. Truck spraying was accomplished however. On Thursday, September 24, large areas in the 6th Ward, Folsom, Mandeville and Madisonville will be aeri ally sprayed. Truck spraying will be conducted in other areas north of Interstate 12 not assigned for aerial spraying.

Unfortunately, once the existing adult mosquitoes are under control, more mosquitoes are expected to emerge due to rainfall from the last couple of days. Inspections have indicated that salt marsh mosquitoes are in their early development stages and within the next few days they will once again emerge. We expect the same with woodland breeding mosquitoes. Personnel are working diligently to provide control and reduce the population numbers. It is unusual to experience the degree of mosquito breeding and population numbers we are now seeing.