



## FOGGING GUIDELINES FOR RURAL HOMEOWNERS (Including when, where, and how we treat)

This document is intended for the individual rural property owner, who has requested adult mosquito control (either as a first-time caller or as a past fogging recipient). The following information will describe what to expect and what you could or should do to prepare for this service.

### **Q1. How does the Mosquito Control Section “spray” to control adult mosquitoes?**

A1. “Fogging” is the term generally used to describe ultra low volume (ULV) insecticide applications for the purpose of controlling adult mosquitoes. Fogging is only intended to **kill the adult mosquitoes that are present at the time** of application. It does not provide any control for the juvenile mosquito larvae that may be present in any standing water around the property. This procedure is performed using a machine mounted in the back of a pick-up truck that puts out a very fine spray of insecticide (fog). This fog is designed to remain in the air for a period of time, therefore increasing its ability to come in contact with the greatest number of mosquitoes. This procedure is usually performed in the evening hours beginning just before sunset and continuing for up to midnight or in the 3 hour time period before sunrise, to coincide with peak activity for most mosquito species, as well as the most stable atmospheric conditions. The Mosquito Control Section fog trucks always (unless there is a mechanical malfunction) indicate their intent to begin spraying by activating a flashing strobe light. This strobe light is also operated while actively fogging.

### **Q2. What chemical is used for fogging, and is it safe?**

A3. The current, primary insecticide used by the Delaware Mosquito Control Section for fogging is sumithrin (Anvil 10+10). It is classified as a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide and is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for mosquito control. All insecticides used in the U.S. must be registered and approved for such use by the EPA following the performance or review of many scientific studies. The EPA realizes that people and pets could be exposed to this product during normal mosquito spraying activities, and the agency takes that fact into consideration when determining the product’s risk profile, allowable uses, and application procedures, routinely allowing for wide margins of safety. The EPA has determined that, when used according to label directions as required by federal law, mosquito control insecticides do not pose any unreasonable risks to human health, pets, wildlife or the environment. For more information about the possible health effects of pesticides used in mosquito control, or for other pesticides, contact the National Pesticide Information Center:

- Toll-free hotline: **1-800-858-7378**. Standard hours are 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM Pacific Standard Time Monday through Friday.
- Email: [npicupdates@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npicupdates@ace.orst.edu)

Additional information about the chemical used in fogging can be found on the EPA Mosquito Control website: [www2.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol](http://www2.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol).

**Q3. What precautions do we need to take (if any) before, during, and after the fogging treatment?**

A3. Because of the EPA’s “comfort level” in regard to any human health concerns from exposure to operational applications of mosquito control adulticides, there are no specific guidelines on the product label instructing people or pets to avoid or not come in contact with the product’s operational use in its final applied form (only common sense personal protection guidelines similar to any pesticide label). It has been our experience that using common sense about limiting exposure (through whatever means you feel are necessary) is the best overall precaution one can take. However, even here as a result of the EPA’s rigorous product screening process and the agency’s determination of best application procedures, the EPA does not feel that any extra avoidance measures are really necessary. Depending on your specific situation, the following are some suggestions one can undertake to reduce exposure concerns:

- Stay out of the treated area for 20-30 minutes to minimize breathing in spray mist
- Close windows/doors and turn off air conditioner units during spraying and for 20-30 mins. after spraying is complete
- Cover outdoor tables and play equipment before spraying or wash them off with detergent and water after they have been sprayed.
- Bring laundry and small toys inside before spraying begins (wash with detergent and water if exposed to Anvil during spraying).
- Cover pet food, water dishes, and ornamental fishponds to avoid direct exposure.
- If spraying just occurred, minimize your contact with surfaces and wash skin that has come in contact with these surfaces.
- Pick homegrown fruits and vegetables that you expect to eat soon before spraying takes place. Rinse homegrown fruits and vegetables (in fact, all produce) thoroughly with water before cooking or eating.

**Q4. How can I be notified when my property is scheduled to receive fogging?**

A4. Many complicated factors are involved with planning, preparing, and performing our spray operations, such as fluctuating wind or weather conditions (temperatures, rainfall), or varying intensities of adult mosquitoes needing rapid response. Therefore, once a request is made by a governing body, if you are really concerned or interested for whatever reason in the exact time when treatment will be performed on your property, then you need to be on the lookout for the Mosquito Control truck and its flashing yellow light

primarily from about 30 minutes before sunset and continuing for up to 4 hours thereafter, on any evening where the wind is less than 10 mph, greater than 1 mph and it's not actively raining (or rain is not imminent), or less frequently from about 3 hours before sunrise and until a short time thereafter. In order to learn when fogging might occur in your general area, you can receive our daily **Spray Announcements** automatically via e-mail by subscribing to our notification system at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/DNRECLists.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/DNRECLists.aspx). You can also directly access Mosquito Control's daily spray announcements online at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Lists/Mosquito%20Spraying%20Announcements/calendar.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Lists/Mosquito%20Spraying%20Announcements/calendar.aspx).

If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, several radio stations also broadcast **Public Service Announcements** concerning Mosquito Control's upcoming plans for spraying. We submit our spray announcements to many radio stations around the state on a daily basis, but unfortunately we have no control over if, when, or how often these stations might choose to run our spray notices. Our **Spray Announcements** are also updated daily on a **toll-free phone line at 1-800-338-8181**. This phone number can be called as often as you like to listen to taped announcements of our spray notices.

#### **Q5. How can I assist Mosquito Control staff in achieving the best possible control on my property?**

A5. In short, the greater the area we can cover, the better the control will be. Therefore, we strongly advise rural homeowners to be prepared to:

- 1) Have someone knowledgeable meet the driver upon arrival to tell them exactly where it is acceptable to drive. Due to liability issues, homeowners will not be allowed to ride in the truck for any reason. If you do not wish to speak with the driver or fear you may not be home at the time of the visit, please give our office detailed instructions when you phone in your request as to where we may drive on your property.
- 2) Move laundry, vehicles, boats, trailers, toys, pets, or other obstructions.
- 3) Open access gates to allow entry to other areas of the property (pastures, paddocks, fields, etc.)
- 4) Please ensure that your address and/or name are clearly posted in a manner in which we can positively identify your property and driveway.

Keep in mind that the Mosquito Control Section conducts fogging using a full size pick-up truck. Do not direct the driver to areas where they may get stuck, alarm livestock, or damage septic or underground sprinkler systems. We will not be responsible for any damage to property if it occurs where the staff was instructed to drive. Additionally, if someone from the home does not speak with the staff member within a few minutes of their arrival, the driver will use their own best judgment to determine proper areas on which to drive. Be aware that their discretion usually errs on the side of caution, therefore possibly resulting in less area being treated.

It should also be noted that the driver will use whatever breeze may be occurring to disperse the insecticide over the greatest amount of area. Fogging recipients should know that the computer system used to control the pesticide application rate adjusts with the speed of the truck to ensure that the appropriate amount of product is being dispensed. Even though the truck may seem to be going faster than usual, the new

computerized system is linked directly to the truck and puts out the appropriate amount of product based on the speed that it is traveling.

Also keep in mind that our staff generally has a long list of fogging requests, and in the interest of fulfilling those requests, the staff needs to be conscience of the time spent at each location. Be aware that it is ultimately up to the driver's discretion as to how much area to cover to provide control in an appropriate amount of time. Several staff members share the responsibility of fogging, so each individual may not be fully aware of all areas that had been previously designated for fogging. Therefore, please be prepared to possibly share this information on multiple occasions. Additionally, we may treat your property more than once based on the initial request. However, please do not rely on this occurring automatically. You will need to make additional requests to ensure additional visits.

#### **Q6. How can I find out when I might receive fogging?**

A6. Many complicated factors are involved with planning, preparing, and performing our spray operations, such as fluctuating wind or weather conditions (temperatures, rainfall), or varying intensities of adult mosquitoes needing rapid response. Therefore, once a request is made, if you are really concerned or interested for whatever reason in the exact time when treatment will be performed on your property, then you need to be on the lookout for the Mosquito Control truck and its flashing yellow light primarily from about 30 minutes before sunset and continuing for up to 4 hours thereafter, on any evening where the wind is less than 10 mph, greater than 1 mph and it's not actively raining (or rain is not imminent), or less frequently from about 3 hours before sunrise and until a short time thereafter. In order to learn when fogging might occur in your general area, you can receive our daily **Spray Announcements** automatically via e-mail by subscribing to our list serve notification system at <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/DNRECLists.aspx>. You can also directly access Mosquito Control's daily on-line spray announcements at <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Lists/Mosquito%20Spraying%20Announcements/calendar.aspx>.

If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, several radio stations also broadcast **Public Service Announcements** concerning Mosquito Control's upcoming plans for spraying. We submit our spray announcements to many radio stations around the state on a daily basis, but unfortunately we have no control over if, when, or how often these stations might choose to run our spray notices. Our **Spray Announcements** are also updated daily on a **toll-free phone line** at **1-800-338-8181**. This phone number can be called as often as you like to listen to taped announcements of our spray notices.

Additional information about any other aspect of mosquito control can be obtained by:

- Visiting our website at: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito).
- Contacting the **Glasgow Mosquito Control Office** (serving New Castle and a large portion of Kent County) at **(302) 836-2555**;
- Contacting the **Milford Mosquito Control Office** (serving lower Kent and all of Sussex County) at **(302) 422-1512**;
- Going to the following link to determine which office services your area -- [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito/Documents/ZipCodeChart.pdf](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito/Documents/ZipCodeChart.pdf).

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