

# The Buzz

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The Buzz is a monthly summary used to disseminate important information about mosquitoes and mosquito control in the City of Portsmouth.

Regular rain in August helped maintain mosquito counts. August is normally the peak month for mosquito activity, however, the preliminary trapping data are indicating mosquito populations may have peaked two months early this season. Everything can change quickly with one tropical storm or hurricane.

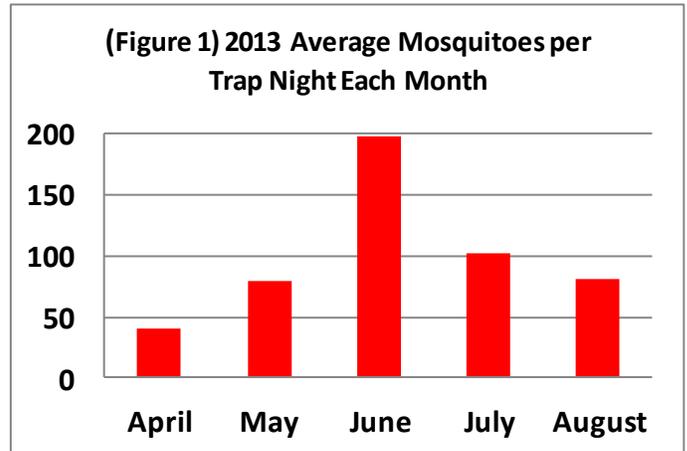


Figure 1 shows the average number of mosquitoes per trap night each month. This season mosquito trap counts appear to have peaked in June, two months early.

## Service Requests

- We have received 118 service requests this year. Many have been caused by salt marsh mosquitoes and Asian Tiger Mosquitoes.
- Complaint calls are projected to be wide spread over the next month.
- It is important when citizens call, please provide: your name, address, and phone number.

## Surveillance Activities

- We had 5.97 inches of rain this past August (average of 1.5 inches each week). The constant rain helped keep a steady supply of mosquitoes the entire month.
- We trapped 3,504 mosquitoes in 43 trap nights this August, average of 82 mosquitoes per trap night. This was about 20% lower than the July average and slightly lower than expected for this time of the year.

## Control Activities

- City staff continue treating standing water in ditches and catch basins throughout the city during the day and truck fogging in the evenings and some mornings.
- August truck fogging totaled 27,900 acres in August, this brings our yearly total to 75,800 acres.
- Residents can call The Mosquito Hotline to find out when areas are going to be sprayed. The Hotline is a recorded message about scheduled spray activities; please call 393-8666 and ask for The Mosquito Hotline. After 4 pm call 393-8666 and enter extension 7324.
- Aerial spray summaries are included in the Federal Activities.

## Federal Activities

- City staff continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Crabbe Aviation (aerial spray contractor) sprayed 6,000 acres on August 12th. Post spray surveys indicated excellent reduction in mosquito counts; we also had several citizens called after the spray confirming the good results. If needed, the Army Corps and City have two remaining contract aerial sprays this season (September and October).
- Air Force aerial spray team sprayed 9,000 acres on August 29th. Post spray surveys indicated excellent reduction in mosquito counts. This was the last scheduled Air Force aerial spraying mission this season.
- Conditions on Craney Island continue to improve, active dredging operations continue to reduce mosquito breeding.
- City and Corps staff are working to schedule remaining aerial spraying as needed.