

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.

What a wet summer we've been having! As more rain continues to be in the forecasts, mosquito populations can show increases in areas of flooding and areas with marshes and dense woodlands.



Figure 1 . Air Force C130 flying over the City Landfill spraying for adult mosquitoes on September 2nd.

Service Requests

- Service requests have been steadily increasing since late August carrying on into September. Total for the year so far is over 80 complaint calls.
- It is important when citizens call, to please provide: your name, address, and phone number, this ensures that we get back to you in a timely matter and can effectively help you when you call.

Surveillance Activities

- We had about 2 inches of rain in August carrying on into September we've seen just under 11 inches of rain causing flooding and stagnant water in many parts of the city. With this came an increase of mosquitoes. Mosquito populations are expected to continue to increase as long as the water stays.
- August had a total of 58 trap nights with an average of 153 mosquitoes per trap night. Numbers will continue to increase in September from all the rain we've been having and as the water continues to stagnate.

Control Activities

- Current efforts are focused on treating ditches, storm drains, and wooded areas throughout the city.
- Truck fogging continues, we determine what areas to spray from trap numbers as long as weather permits. So far this year, over 87,000 acres have been sprayed throughout the City of Portsmouth.
- On Sept. 2nd the Air Force did an aerial adulticide over Craney Island, the City Landfill, and parts of Churchland.
- 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.

Mosquito Tips

- Continue to empty out anything that can hold water in your yard. You, as citizens, are the best defense against mosquitoes.
- If you have old tires in your yard be sure of to dispose of them properly at a refuse site. Also if you happen to have a tire swing for kids, no problem! Drill holes in the bottom to prevent water from collecting.
- After mowing your lawn, prevent grass clippings and debris from entering ditches and storm drains that are connected to your property.
- Use lawn treatments found at local hardware stores to prevent mosquito harborage on your property.
- Keep yard clean and free of clutter.