



Mosquito Control Program Standard Procedures

Caroline County Public Works

520 Wilmuth Street, Denton, MD 21629

PHONE: 410-479-0520

FAX: 410-479-0409

Introduction

Caroline County provides a fee-for-service mosquito control program. The employees who provide the service are certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and follow all the applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Any concerns or questions about the program may be directed to Mr. Jeff Garrett, the Program Coordinator, or to Mr. Kevin Brown, the Facilities Superintendent of Caroline County.

When we spray

Before we spray, our employees conduct a field test for the density of adult mosquitos. When there are enough mosquitos as verified by the test, we spray. If not, we don't. We also monitor for conditions that threaten public health and may set "light traps" to capture and test mosquitos to see if they are carrying an illness. If the light traps capture enough mosquitos, we spray. Additional details on our mosquito testing protocols can be found on the County's website.

We conduct normal spraying **every day of the week except Saturday and Sunday. We reserve the right to spray on any day. Normal hours of operation are from dusk to dawn.** The program begins in May and ends in October. The actual start and stop dates depend on mosquito populations and guidelines from the State.

When we don't spray

We do not spray during rain, when the wind speed exceeds 10 mph, when the temperature is higher than 85 degrees, or when other conditions exist where spraying cannot be conducted safely. Due to regulations, we do not spray after 0800 AM. We avoid spraying around people.

What we use

The County's program uses an ultra-low volume (ULV) "adulticide" formula to control adult mosquitos. This consists of Permethrin 30-30, Permethrin mixed in a concentration of 1:4 with CVA oil. To combat mosquito larvae, we use a larvicide consisting of Altosid (methoprene) in a liquid, pellet, or charcoal briquette. If you would like copies of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or other information, please contact the Mosquito Control Program.

Midges/Flies

The County's program does not spray for midges. These non-biting insects swarm on homes, boats, trees, and shrubs generally near water. The midge population normally surges for a few weeks and then dissipates. We are not allowed to spray for Flies (even biting flies).

What to expect and how to file an objection to stop spraying nearby

Our employees spray for mosquitos early in the morning. We use truck-mounted equipment and normally follow a specific route. We try not to disturb residents. The ULV spray we use is a "knock down" formula. It kills mosquitos on contact and reduces mosquito populations but does not eliminate them.

This is a subscription program where residents sign up for the service; however, we do provide services to local municipal governments and community associations. We understand some residents may not want mosquito spraying to occur nearby. To file an objection, please call the Mosquito Control Program or follow the direction on the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) website.