

MOSQUITO CONTROL INFORMATION

- During mosquito season, from late spring through early fall, the Town of Bethany Beach applies both larvicide and adulticide products to help control mosquitoes. This generally occurs between 3 am and 7 am Friday mornings, weather permitting, throughout the Town's approximately 19 miles of streets and alleys. Additional adulticide applications may be added, depending upon conditions. Also, specific requests for spraying will be assessed and performed, depending upon the severity of the infestation.
- Homeowners may request that their specific area be eliminated from the adulticide schedule by calling Town Hall at 539-1339, or the Public Works Department at 302-539-1339. It is important to note that a specific address can not effectively be eliminated. The fog from the sprayer will drift many feet. Generally, an **exclusion zone** is a minimum of 500 sq.ft.
- The Town's Mosquito Control Program is supervised and done by employees who are properly trained and licensed. The Town Public Works Director and one additional employee have pesticide applicators licenses. These licenses are kept current through continuing education credits within the mosquito control field. The Public Works Director also has a mosquito control endorsement. Both employees attend an annual mosquito control seminar in order to keep current with new and changing technologies.
- A brief explanation of the two types of applications follows.
 - Larvicide keeps mosquito larva from maturing to the adult stage (biting stage). It involves the application of a product called 5% Skeeter Abate. Skeeter Abate is a white-colored pellet designed to treat standing water, ponds, lakes, woodland pools, catch basins, marshes, swamps, polluted water, intertidal pools, or areas with recurrent mosquito populations. The Town spreads this product either with a backpack blower or by hand. Skeeter Abate may last up to 30 days before re-application is necessary. Skeeter Abate's active ingredient is Temephos, and carries a **WARNING** designation on the label.
 - Adulticide applications help control adult mosquito populations and involve the spraying of a product called DUET. DUET is a liquid product which is sprayed through an ULV (Ultra Low Volume) sprayer. The sprayer that the Town uses is a battery operated machine which atomizes the liquid and sprays a fog column into the air. The fog column is designed to drift in the air over long distances. DUET is a combination of Prallethrin and Sumithrin, designed to control adult mosquitoes, midges and black flies in outdoor residential and recreational areas. DUET carries a **CAUTION** designation on the label.
- These products are widely used in the mosquito control industry and are considered safe for use in a town setting.
- In addition to the Town's mosquito control program, the State of Delaware has a program in which they apply larvicide products to ditches in town. The Town and the State work together in order to avoid duplicative larvicide applications. The State also does ground fog applications and aerial applications in our area. Aerial applications are done by plane or helicopter. Information on the State of Delaware's aerial spray program can be obtained on the State Fish and Wildlife Department website: www.fw.delaware.gov
- **HOMEOWNERS CAN HELP REDUCE MOSQUITO POPULATIONS** by eliminating anything that may hold water for an extended period of time. Toys, flower pots, buckets, are all ideal locations for mosquitoes to develop. Mosquitoes develop from the egg stage to the adult stage very rapidly. Some mosquitoes as rapidly as one week. Mosquitoes develop and hatch in standing water usually containing organic matter. Elimination of standing water can greatly reduce mosquito populations.

- For additional information, call the Public Works Director at 302-539-1339