

Mosquitoes can be a nuisance, as well as pose a significant health risk, to humans and animals in many areas of the United States. Mosquito-vectored (transmitted) diseases, such as encephalitis, dengue fever and malaria have been known for many years, and can infect humans, wildlife and domestic animals. In fact, more than one million people die from mosquito-borne disease each year. One of the newest diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, West Nile Virus (WNV), is a rapidly spreading disease that infects humans, horses, birds and other animals.

This guide provides general answers to frequently asked questions about products and practices currently used by Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (BCMVCD) to control mosquito populations and protect public health.

If you have other questions or concerns, please contact our office.

Public information supplied by:

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AND  
VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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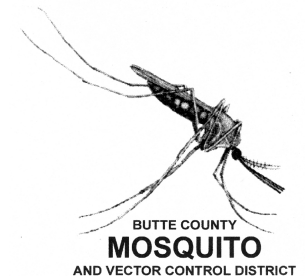
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## Frequently Asked Questions About Public Mosquito Control Fogging

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**Q: Why is my area being fogged for mosquitoes?**

**A:** Mosquito control applications are made when BCMVCD monitoring activities have determined that:

- ◆ Mosquito populations have reached levels that threaten public health,
- ◆ Incidences of mosquito-transmitted diseases have been reported in the area,
- ◆ The nuisance threshold for the general population has been exceeded.

Adult mosquito control fogging is implemented to reduce adult mosquito populations and lessen the risk of disease transmission to residents and their animals.

Local public health agencies, news media, mosquito control districts and news media work together to inform residents of the mosquito problem, and current disease threat. These applications are done under the direct control of licensed professional applicators with specific training for this type of public health pest control.

**Q: What types of insecticides are used to control mosquitoes?**

**A:** In addition to eliminating breeding habitats, a variety of different products may be used to control mosquitoes, including biological and chemical products that control mosquito larvae or adults. Only products approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and California EPA are used. All products are applied at extremely low volumes, typically a few ounces or less per acre, by approved aircraft or ground sprayers. This low rate is highly effective and poses minimal exposure risks to people, animals and the environment.

One of the most effective insecticides used to control adult mosquitoes is pyrethrin, an organic botanical insecticide made from chrysanthemum flowers grown in Kenya and Ecuador. Pyrethrin is used in residential, agricultural and commercial areas throughout the United

States because of its high toxicity to insects and low hazard to humans and domestic animals. Pyrethrin is applied at a maximum label rate of .0026 lbs. per acre.

Mosquito fogging is done in areas where adult mosquitoes frequent, including residential and agricultural areas, marshes and woodlands.

Most mosquito species are active in the early morning, evening and nighttime hours when searching for a blood meal. It is also the time when winds are calm and the most effective insecticide applications can be made. Larvicidal mosquito control applications can be made at any time to standing water and other larvae habitats.

**Q: Are these pesticides safe?**

**A:** The EPA evaluates and tests all products thoroughly before they can be used to be sure there is a “*reasonable certainty of no harm*” to humans, animals and the environment. While no insecticide is 100% safe, the products used to control mosquitoes have passed rigorous safety tests required by the EPA.

**Q: Is it safe to be outside when these applications are made?**

**A:** Local government, public health agencies, news media and mosquito control specialists work together to inform the public of spray schedules so that you and your family can go inside during the application. Generally speaking, the spray material dissipates within 30 minutes after the application equipment has left the area. After the material has dissipated, normal outside activities may resume, but with the noticeable absence of mosquitoes. Unfortunately, mosquitoes eventually come back from areas that are not treated, so spray operations are often repeated during the season.

**Q: What steps should I take to reduce exposure**

**during spraying?**

**A:** There is no need for most individuals to take any special precautionary measures during mosquito control spraying. However, people who suffer from chemical sensitivity may want to remain indoors and take the following additional steps...

- ◆ Close windows and turn off swamp coolers or window air conditioners during applications in your immediate area. Once the material has dissipated(usually within 30 minutes), most sensitive individuals can return to their normal activities.
- ◆ Do not let children play near truck-mounted spray equipment.

