

Believe it or not, mosquito season is just around the corner! Our community is part of the Cache Mosquito Abatement District (CMAD), which seeks to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illness, especially West Nile Virus (WNV), as well as alleviate the nuisance of mosquitoes. The first line of defense is to reduce mosquito breeding habitat through prevention. There are many things you can do around your home to help control mosquitoes. Drain standing water around your house in the form of clogged gutters, children's toys, pet water dishes, and birdbaths. It only takes a small amount of water (half a cup!) to provide a breeding area for thousands of mosquitoes. Empty pet dishes and bird baths a couple of times a week to get rid of any mosquito eggs or larva.

The second line of defense is the use of larvicide. Several of the compounds used by CMAD target only mosquito larva and do not harm other water-based organisms, mammals, or the environment. If you are aware of standing water which may potentially become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, please contact CMAD by calling 435-764-6839 or by emailing cmad.cache@gmail.com. CMAD spends nearly three times as many hours larviciding compared to fogging, as larviciding is much more effective. In addition, carbon dioxide traps are distributed throughout the District to track numbers of mosquitoes. This surveillance allows them to be identified by species and tested for the presence of WNV and other diseases.

Finally, fogging or spraying with a permethrin-based pesticide generally occurs when adult mosquito numbers are high enough that they present a disease risk as well as an increased nuisance level. CMAD usually begins fogging in June and ends in September, depending on weather conditions. Fogging is only effective from dusk to the early hours of the morning, so that is when you will see/hear trucks going through the community. Trucks are equipped with flashing lights to enable citizens to more easily see them coming. Please use caution when you see a truck and do all you can to avoid the spray, such as rolling up car windows or moving away from the roadside until the truck passes. Though the spray is not toxic to humans, it is of course desirable to avoid contact when possible.

A fogging schedule by community will be posted on the CMAD website at cachemosquito.com. The schedule will be available at the end of May/beginning of June, and other information about mosquito abatement is available on the website as well. We send our best wishes for a safe and happy summer season!