

Okaloosa County News Release - 1 -

April 25, 2016

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

NR16-26

Okaloosa County Mosquito Control Scheduled Begins

The Okaloosa County Mosquito Control Program began spot spraying this month. Within the next couple of weeks, the standard evening broadcast spray schedule will begin, weather permitting. The schedule is below and you can follow this link anytime:

http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/sites/default/files/doc/dept/public_works/mosquito_control/mosquito_spraying.pdf

The following is the Okaloosa County spray route schedule.

MONDAYS:

John Riley Barnhill Road to Escambia Farms, Vinson Ray Road

Beaver Creek to North Baker

Crestview: Rattlesnake Bluff and Little Silver Road, from Aplin Road south to Live Oak Church Road;

Highway 90 East from Shoal River to County Line Road and north to Poverty Creek Road

Destin from Destin Bridge to Airport Road

Wynnehaven Beach, Florosa and Valparaiso

TUESDAYS:

East side of Highway 189 to Highway 602; Four Flags area

Baker and Holt South of Highway 90

Crestview: Aplin Road north to Highway 90; Old Bethel Road past Sioux Circle, Old Antioch Road to Highway 90 west of Highway 85

Destin from Airport Road to Walton County line, Mary Esther/Fort Walton Beach and Bluewater Bay

WEDNESDAYS:

Holt north of Highway 90, Baker West of Galliver Cutoff

Laurel Hill to County Line, Highway 393 N, Steel Mill Road

Crestview: Old Bethel Road to Airport Road, Highway 90 from Fairchild Road to Highway 85, north to Airport Road

Streets off of Lewis Turner Boulevard to Carmel Drive, Rocky Bayou, Fort Walton Beach from Brooks Bridge to Memorial Parkway

THURSDAYS:

Poverty Creek Road, Highway 393 to Campton

Baker from Galliver Cutoff to Old River Road

Crestview: Lake Silver Road to Airport Road to Auburn area

Shalimar, Ocean City, Mooney Road area and Niceville

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Okaloosa County Mosquito Control and the Florida Department of Health urge the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts. These should include remembering to “**SWAT.**”

- **S**tay inside with screened doors and windows when mosquitoes are biting (dusk and dawn).
- **W**hen outside, wear clothing that covers skin.
- **A**pply mosquito repellent that includes DEET [N, N diethyl-m-toluamide] on your skin when you are outside
- **T**urn over standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs or better yet - rid your outdoor area of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

Remember to apply all mosquito repellents in accordance with the recommended frequency and methods suggested by the manufacturer.

The Florida Department of Health now recommends the following mosquito-borne illness recommendations:

DRAIN standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying:

- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.
- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pets water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER skin with clothing or repellent:

Clothing: Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.

Repellent: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house:

- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

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The County Mosquito Control Program sprays for mosquitoes county-wide excluding federal and state-owned land and entities who have contacted the MC Program for inclusion on the no-spray list. Mosquito spray trucks generally operate from 2 hours before sunset and/or 2 hours after sunrise. Surveillance activities may indicate certain types of mosquitoes known to be disease vectors being active during other time periods than noted. If this is the case, the County will respond appropriately.

Areas of Concern:

- *Wetlands*; properties bordering Eglin A.F.B., which are not treated; and property owners unaware that they are creating mosquito breeding sites.
 - *Standing water*; eliminating should be at the top of everyone's 'to do list' right now!
 - *Children's pools*, plant pots, old tires*, leaf piles, pet watering bowl and gutters should be checked daily for standing water. Even something as simple as a soda lid can literally breed hundreds of mosquitoes.
- * *Waste tires* can be disposed of FREE at the South Okaloosa County Transfer Station and the Baker Landfill. – this applies only to local households and not businesses. Tire sizes are limited to passenger car and light truck tires.
Quantities limited - 5 tires per household/month.

In addition to spraying, the county has an aggressive larviciding program that includes more than 1,500 sites treated and are checked on a regular basis. Additionally, more than 750 ponds and areas with standing water are treated with gambusia fish which eat mosquito larva and reproduce at incredible rates.

Residents are also reminded to have outdoor animals vaccinated against disease. Horses should be vaccinated against Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Although West Nile and EEE can occur throughout the year, peak season is August, September and October. Horses must receive two vaccine injections 3 to 6 weeks apart and then it is recommended every 3 to 6 months. Dog owners are also reminded to have pets treated for heartworms, as mosquitoes carry the disease as well.

The Mosquito Control Division of Public Works is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and may be reached at 651-7394 or 689-5772. Mosquito spray schedule, preventative tips and other related information is available on the County's web site at www.co.okaloosa.fl.us.

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