

# Curtailing Nuisance Mosquitoes is a Team Effort

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*St. Charles County, Missouri* – Decreasing the population of nuisance pests in the community and preventing related disease outbreaks transmitted by infected insects are the goals of the St. Charles County Division of Environmental Health and Protection’s mosquito control program, officially titled “Vector Control.”

St. Charles County’s mosquito control program is primarily a request-driven process. Although staff does target habitat areas for routine operations, specific sites are treated when residents notify the department that mosquitoes have become a problem. When needed, staff injects larvicide in pools of standing water where mosquitoes hatch to control the population before it develops, and spray trucks disperse small amounts of insecticide to reduce the number of adult insects.

The program contracts with several municipalities to minimize mosquito populations in their communities. Residents living in unincorporated St. Charles County or within the city limits of Augusta, Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, Flint Hill, Lake Saint Louis, Portage des Sioux, Weldon Spring, Weldon Spring Heights and Wentzville, who are concerned about nuisance mosquitoes in their area, should visit <http://health.sccmo.org> (using the left navigation; click on Environmental Division, then Vector & Mosquito Control) or call the Vector Control program at 636.949.1800 to request assistance. Those within the city limits of O’Fallon, St. Charles and St. Peters should contact their respective city halls regarding mosquito abatement efforts.

While the health department’s efforts may reduce the number of mosquitoes in the community, individuals must take personal responsibility to protect themselves and their families. Residents can discourage mosquitoes from biting by using an insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus whenever outdoors. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) recommends wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside. For additional tips on preventing insect bites, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>.

To eliminate potential breeding grounds around your home, the Division of Environmental Health and Protection staff recommends residents:

- Fill in or drain areas where water may stand for more than one week
- Empty watering cans, wading pools and other water containers after using
- Completely seal cesspools and screen all vents
- Clean clogged roof gutters and drain flat roofs so no water stays
- Cover all standing receptacles, such as rain barrels in rural areas, with netting
- Stock garden pools and ponds with small fish or aerate them to disrupt the water surface
- Tilt wheelbarrows and machines with containers to prevent holding water

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