

Mosquitoes After Flooding

Overview:

The weeks following a flood, communities should expect an increase of nuisance (floodwater) mosquito populations. Large numbers of floodwater mosquitoes can slow recovery efforts by making work outdoors difficult. Floodwater mosquitoes don't generally spread germs that can make people sick. This fact sheet provides tips for avoiding mosquito bites, approved mosquito repellents and how to mosquito proof your home.

Rainfall can increase the amount of container-breeding mosquitoes that can spread diseases like West Nile Virus.

- It is important to clean up debris that may act as containers for mosquito breeding.
- The types of mosquitoes that can spread viruses may increase 2 weeks after an area gets more rainfall than usual, but did not flood.
- In areas with ongoing spread of viruses like West Nile, there may be an increased risk of getting infected.

Mosquito control professionals may use insecticides to reduce numbers of mosquitoes in affected areas.

Avoid mosquito bites by:

- Applying insect repellent to exposed skin
- Wearing protective clothing such as long-sleeves, long pants, socks and shoes
- Being aware of peak hours of mosquito activity: dusk and dawn

CDC Approved/EPA Registered Mosquito Repellents:

- DEET
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that repellents with DEET should not be used on infants less than 2 months old.
- Picaridin
- Oil from Lemon Eucalyptus or PMD (the synthesized version of oil from lemon eucalyptus).
 - This should not be used on children under three years of age.
- IR3535
- 2-undecanone
- Permethrin (Do NOT apply directly to skin)
 - This product is only recommended for use on clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear.

Mosquito-proof your home by:

- Install or repair window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.
- Emptying water (at least once or twice a week) from flower pots, pet food and water dishes, bird baths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.

- Removing discarded tires and other items that could collect water.
- Cleaning out clogged rain gutters.

Updated 6/28/2024