



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S MOSQUITO CONTROL DIVISION INTENSIFIES EFFORTS Public Works Department urges residents to take precautions

(Miami, July 18, 2011) –

This week, the Mosquito Control Division of the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department is conducting inspections and treatment of known mosquito breeding areas, and will conduct ground and aerial spraying as needed to control adult mosquito populations. Residential inspections are also performed to find and eliminate breeding and adult mosquitoes. Due to the significant increase in the mosquito population as a result of the recent rains and winds blowing from breeding grounds in the national parks, the parts of the County most affected at this time by the increased mosquito activity are currently scheduled for ground and/or aerial spraying.

With the onset of the rainy season, mosquitoes have become more abundant in our County, as heavy rainfall, floods, soil depressions and low-lying areas create favorable mosquito breeding conditions. Although southwest Miami-Dade County usually experiences the greatest mosquito nuisance due to its proximity to the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, most areas of the county are afflicted by mosquitoes during the summer months.

Please be aware that two of the species of mosquitoes found in Miami-Dade County can be effectively controlled by vigilance on the part of residents, as these mosquitoes breed in water holding containers. Therefore, residents are urged to inspect their properties and dispose of tin cans, waste tires, buckets, discarded plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water. Residents should also flush bromeliads weekly, repair leaky pipes and maintain rain gutters, as these are all potential mosquito breeding places. These mosquitoes are known to efficiently transmit Dengue Fever, a serious but highly preventable disease.

"The safety and welfare of our residents is my top priority," said Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez. "Not only do these mosquito control measures help protect the community's most vulnerable, including children and senior citizens, but they protect everyone from mosquito-related disease and infections."

The best protection from mosquito-transmitted diseases is avoiding exposure to infected mosquito bites. Residents should keep doors and windows closed, stay indoors at dusk and dawn, and wear long, loose and light colored clothing when going outdoors. An insect repellent should always be applied before going

outside. There are several products sold in stores that repel mosquitoes; such as products containing DEET and PICARIDIN and are registered by the EPA and recommended by the Center for Disease and Control (CDC). Use repellents that give you the length of protection you need, based on the amount of time you will be outdoors. Always read the instructions on the label carefully before using the product.

Miami-Dade County residents experiencing mosquito annoyance should call 3-1-1 from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday and from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturdays. Residents with internet access can also enter their request for service by clicking on the service center link online at www.miamidade.gov.

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