

May 05, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Standing Water, Higher Temps Could Increase Mosquitos**

The combination of standing water left over from recent rain and the expected increase in temperatures over the coming weeks could lead to an increase in the mosquito population. Mosquitoes are a nuisance but can also carry disease, which can be dangerous. There are simple actions that can be taken to reduce the mosquito population and the risk for spread of disease.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in still, stagnant water and can breed in as little as a teaspoon of water. Mosquito eggs can hatch in as short as three days. Adult mosquitoes live in tall grass, weeds and shrubs throughout the heat of the day. Mosquitoes can be a threat as they are known to carry diseases such as West Nile virus and encephalitis. These are diseases that cause flu-like symptoms and are easily treatable, but can be fatal if left untreated.

There are some simple steps to take to reduce mosquito population and chances of being bitten:

- Remove items that collect standing water from your property. These are optimal habitats for mosquitoes. Check your yard for things like buckets, cans, plastic, tarps, trash, toys, flower pots or tires and dump any standing water. When possible, move items to a place where they will not collect water.
- Change water frequently in items like wading pools, bird baths and pet water dishes.
- Store boats with the drain plugs removed and tilted so that water runs into the drain.
- Include fish in landscaping ponds to eat mosquito eggs and larva or keep the water moving.
- Keep grass mowed and resist overwatering plants to reduce mosquito habitat.
- Mosquitoes peak feeding times are dusk and dawn so plan outdoor activities outside these times of day.
- Apply mosquito repellent to help prevent mosquito bites in addition to wearing protective clothing. Always follow product directions.
- Treat ditches, low areas in the yard, rain barrels, and other standing water with mosquito larvicide dunks which can be purchased at your local home improvement store. Be careful to follow product directions.

For more information on controlling mosquitoes, please visit our website at [www.springfieldmo.gov/health/mosquitos.html](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/health/mosquitos.html) or call 417-864-1666 to file a complaint about mosquitoes or standing water.

A 'Free Waste Tire Collection' event is being held on May 7 from 8 am – 1pm at the Ozarks Empire Fairgrounds Gate 5. Waste tires will be accepted at no charge from City of Springfield residents and neighborhood groups. Take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of tires and

clean up your neighborhood while preventing increases in mosquito populations and the associated risk for disease spread.

For information on mosquito control please call Karen McKinnis at 417-864-1623.

For more information contact: Katie Towns-Jeter MPH, Public Information Administrator, 417-874-1205



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