

MOSQUITO CONTROL FAQs:

How long does the fog kill mosquitoes?

During the fogging, flying mosquitoes within the treated area are killed. Although the local mosquito population is reduced for a few days, fogging does not prevent mosquitoes from re-entering the area.

If the Town has been fogged for mosquitoes, are all mosquitoes in my area eliminated?

Fogging will kill only part of the mosquitoes in your area for a few days. Consequently, individuals should always use personal protection when mosquitoes are present:

- When possible, avoid places and times when mosquitoes bite.
- Wear light-colored protective clothing. Tightly woven materials that cover arms and legs provide some protection from mosquito bites. Keep trouser legs tucked into boots or socks, and collars buttoned.
- Make sure door and window screens fit tightly and all holes are repaired.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure, and to protect small babies any time they are outside.
- If participating in outdoor activities when mosquitoes are biting, wear protective clothing (shoes, socks, shirt and long pants).
- For additional protection from mosquitoes, use an insect repellent. The more DEET a product contains, the longer the repellent can protect against mosquito bites. However, concentrations higher than 50 percent do not increase the length of protection. For most situations, 10 percent to 25 percent DEET is adequate.
- Apply repellents to clothes whenever possible; apply sparingly to exposed skin if label permits. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.

Are the insecticides used for fogging safe?

The USEPA reviews and approves insecticides (and other pesticides) and their labeling to ensure those used to protect public health are applied by methods that minimize the risk of human exposure and adverse health and environmental effects. Generally, there is no need to relocate during mosquito control fogging. The insecticides have been evaluated for this use and have been found to pose minimal risk to human health and the environment when used according to label directions. For example, USEPA has estimated the exposure and risks to both adults and children posed by ULV aerial and ground applications of the insecticides malathion and naled. For all the scenarios considered, exposures ranged from 100 to 10,000 times below the amount of pesticide that might pose a health concern. These estimates assumed several spraying events over a period of weeks and also assumed that a toddler would ingest some soil and grass in addition to dermal exposure. Other mosquito control insecticides pose similarly low risks. Nevertheless, because insecticides are inherently toxic, no pesticide is absolutely risk free. The likelihood of experiencing adverse health effects as a result of exposure to any pesticide depends primarily on the amount of pesticide that a person contacts and the amount of time the person is in contact with that pesticide. In addition, a person's age, sex, genetic makeup, lifestyle and/or general health characteristics can affect his or her likelihood of experiencing adverse health effects as a result of exposure to insecticides. Although mosquito control insecticides pose low risks, some people may prefer to minimize or to avoid exposure to these chemicals.

Here are some commonsense steps to help reduce possible exposure to insecticides:

- Listen and watch for announcements about fogging for mosquitoes and remain indoors when fogging takes place in your neighborhood.
- People who suffer from chemical sensitivities or feel fogging could aggravate a preexisting health condition should consult their doctor or local health department and take special measures to avoid exposure.
- Close windows and doors and turn off your air conditioning (or set it to circulate indoor air) when fogging is taking place in the immediate area.
- Do not let children play near or behind truck-mounted applicators when they are in use. Keep children inside during fogging and for about one hour after fogging truck(s) leave the area.
- Bring pets inside and cover ornamental fishponds to avoid direct exposure.
- Consult your doctor if you think you are experiencing health effects from the fogging.

More information about spraying for adult mosquitoes may be found on the USEPA's Web site:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>