

News Release

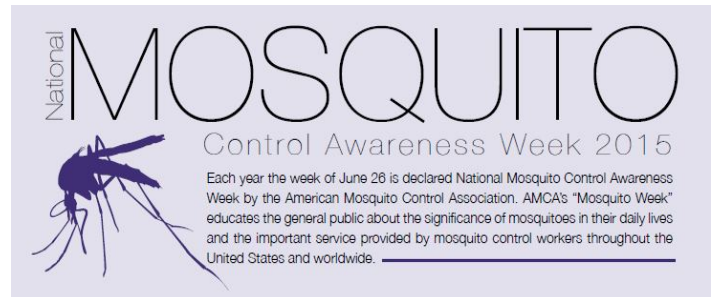


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Charleston County to Observe June 21-27 as National Mosquito Awareness Week

[Charleston County Government's Mosquito Control Division](#) employees will be providing mosquito facts to the public and explaining how people can help get rid of the pests on their own in observation of National Mosquito Control Awareness Week.

The week of June 21-27, 2015, has been declared the 19th annual [National Mosquito Control Awareness Week](#) by the [American Mosquito Control Association](#).



In an effort to reach out and educate the public, Charleston County inspectors routinely hand out informational packets when they respond to service requests. As part of the 2015 awareness week, staff will also go door-to-door in the Belle Hall neighborhood of Mt. Pleasant for a special citizen's awareness campaign, where they will talk to neighbors.

"Mosquito Control Awareness Week provides an excellent opportunity to talk with our citizens in person and answer their questions and concerns," said Mike Huggins, Operations Foreman for [Charleston County's Mosquito Control Division](#). "We will give people information on the mosquito life cycle and tips on how to eliminate mosquito egg-laying sites around their homes in order to help reduce the number of mosquitoes in their neighborhoods."

Brochures will also be distributed to libraries and Charleston County parks.

Each year, Charleston County's Mosquito Control Division treats over 200,000 acres by aircraft and 800,000 acres through ground spraying.

"Mosquitoes carry diseases including [West Nile virus](#), [dengue fever](#), [malaria](#), [Eastern equine encephalitis virus](#), and [heartworms](#)," said Mosquito Control Manager Frank Carson. "The public has to be an integral part of our fight against mosquito-borne diseases."

The young mosquitoes, or larvae, cannot live and become adult mosquitoes without water. So the key is to get rid of the containers that hold water around homes, yards, schools and businesses. The public must help by flushing water out of birdbaths and pet dishes with a garden hose. Keep anything that has potential to hold water, such as toys, buckets, cans and bottles, turned over and emptied.

"In fact, container-breeding mosquitoes account for up to 30% of the requests for service our Division receives each year," Carson said. "Of these mosquitoes, the Tiger mosquito is a significant pest and can carry the West Nile virus."

The Tiger mosquito is a domestic mosquito and is closely associated with humans. Artificial containers, so abundant in developed environments, are the major breeding sites and are essential to the production and maintenance of large populations of the Tiger mosquito.

Mosquitoes also grow and live in standing water in other types of areas, including ditches and low spots in yards, fields, and woods. Because this standing water can't always be eliminated, Charleston County Mosquito Control routinely checks these types of areas for mosquito breeding and treats them when needed.

Working together, Charleston County Mosquito Control and the citizens of Charleston County can reduce the mosquito population so that residents can continue to enjoy outside activities and minimize the occurrence of mosquito-borne disease.

SIDEBAR

MOSQUITO FACTS:

- A mosquito's life revolves around water; a female mosquito lays her eggs in water or in areas expected to flood.
- Once they hatch, a larvae mosquito must remain in water until it emerges as an adult approximately one to two weeks later.
- Mosquitoes can become infected with the West Nile Virus when they feed on infected birds.
- Mosquitoes can transmit heartworm disease from an infected dog or cat to a healthy dog or cat.
- Mosquitoes beat their wings 300-600 times per second, making the mosquito buzz sound.

WAYS THE PUBLIC CAN HELP REDUCE MOSQUITOES:

- Every three days, flush birdbaths, and empty potted plant saucers and other containers that hold water
- Keep yard clean and cut
- Remove items from yard that hold water and are not needed outside
- Keep lawn and gardening equipment indoors
- Fix leaky faucets
- Keep gutters clean
- Fill in tree holes with sand or concrete
- Change pet water dishes regularly
- Chlorinate pools and clean the pool and filters
- Add fish to ponds

TO REQUEST SERVICE OR INFORMATION

- To request service or to get information on Charleston County Mosquito Control activities, call (843) 202-7880 or visit <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/public-works/work-order-request.php>
- For information on educational programs and presentations available from Charleston County Mosquito Control, call (843) 202-7886.
- Visit the American Mosquito Control Association's Web site at www.mosquito.org for information on various mosquito-related subjects such as home mosquito control methods, repellents and mosquito biology.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org



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