

# Frequently Asked Questions on Aerial Mosquito Spraying



## **Why is Jefferson County Public Health Service conducting aerial mosquito spraying?**

As of 08/10/2020, there have been several confirmed cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) among horses in Jefferson County. Mosquitoes can also transmit EEE, among other diseases, to humans. By reducing the number of mosquitoes, we can reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease in humans. The decision to conduct aerial mosquito spraying is made in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and other local & state experts.

## **How does aerial spraying work?**

An airplane equipped with a spray system dispenses the pesticide in droplets so fine that it stays afloat and kills flying mosquitoes on contact. The airplane is also equipped with GPS software that allows for an accurate spray/application.

## **What is the pesticide used for aerial spraying?**

The pesticide used for aerial mosquito spraying in Jefferson County is called Kontrol 30-30. This pesticide is used specifically for the control of adult mosquitoes in outdoor residential and recreational areas. It contains permethrin and piperonyl butoxide as active ingredients. Permethrin has been registered by the EPA since 1979. It is currently registered and sold in a number of products such as residential indoor and outdoor insect foggers and sprays, treated clothing, flea products for dogs, termite treatments, agricultural and livestock products, and mosquito abatement products. Piperonyl butoxide does not directly kill insects, but it helps increase the ability for permethrin to kill insects.

## **Are the pesticides used for aerial spraying safe for humans and pets?**

Pesticides are applied at very low concentrations to control mosquitoes. According to NYSDOH, it is unlikely that adverse health effects will occur as a result of this use for most people. However, some people may experience health effects, therefore, take steps to minimize your exposure to the pesticide by remaining indoors and closing your windows during the spraying.

## **What area will the aerial spraying occur?**

The aerial spraying will occur around the marshy mosquito habitat around Perch Lake. Aerial spraying will not be done over open water or over open fields. A map of the fly zone can be found online at [www.jcphs.org](http://www.jcphs.org).

### **What precautions should be taken by residents in the spray area?**

Aerial spraying will take place at dusk. If you live in the spray area, stay indoors during spraying and keep your windows closed for one hour after spraying is completed. Keep your pets indoors, if possible. Set your window air conditioners to circulate indoor air. It is safe to use central air conditioning. Remove children's toys that are outdoors, any outdoor furniture, and clothes from outdoor clotheslines. If you are driving during the spraying, close your car window and car vents. After the spraying, rinse your garden vegetables and/or fruits before eating.

### **Why would aerial spraying be delayed due to weather?**

Certain weather conditions may reduce the effectiveness and the accuracy of the application—such as wind over 10mph, or rain during or soon after spraying. The permit granted to use by the NYSDEC states that spraying cannot occur if there is a 50% or greater chance of rain in the forecast during the scheduled time of spraying, or within 4 hours after. The reason for this is to prevent pesticides from getting into wetlands, near-by areas and bodies of water in a storm water run-off. Also, according to the product label, air temperature during application must be at least 50°F.

### **What other factors may cause spraying to be postponed?**

Spraying may be postponed due to mechanical failure of the airplane, or other factors out of the spray contractor's control.

### **After the spraying, do I still need to protect myself from mosquito bites?**

Yes. You should still cover exposed skin with clothing and/or insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535. Make sure the screens on your windows and doors are intact. Reduce mosquito breeding grounds by getting rid of any standing water around your home.

### **Where can I find more information on the pesticide that is used?**

Visit [www.jcphs.org](http://www.jcphs.org) to view the product label, or call Jefferson County Public Health Service at 315-786-3730.

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