



# Sampson County Local Government

## HURRICANE FLORENCE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PRESS RELEASE

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**#FlorenceNC**

### **MOSQUITO SPRAYING TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK IN SAMPSON COUNTY**

Sampson County staff anticipate beginning their ground spraying for mosquitoes as early as Monday, October 8, 2018. Crews will spray, using a truck-mounted spray device, from 7 pm – 7 am each night (when mosquitoes are the most active) along all state-maintained roads the unincorporated areas of the County and on as many subdivision roads as funding will allow.

The crews will utilize maps provided by the state to identify spray-exclusion areas with endangered or threatened critical habitat and organic farms. The foggers will use the chemical Envion, a water-based, ready-to-use mosquito adulticide containing Permethrin and Piperonyl butoxide. The mist extends about 30 feet from the foggers, or about 15 feet on each side of the road. It dissipates and does not stick to services. “There are about 1,600 miles of roadways in the unincorporated areas of Sampson County,” states Public Works Director Linwood Reynolds. “Our goal is to spray about 100 miles each night and to complete the process in about 20 nights, or until our supply of chemical is exhausted.”

Sampson County has not had a mosquito vector control program for many years due to the lack of state funding. Fortunately, as a disaster-declared county in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, Sampson County has been allocated \$95,660 in funding from the Division of Public Health for mosquito abatement activities. Additionally, the County is grateful to the City of Clinton for the loan of mosquito-spraying equipment. “We are grateful for the state funding and to the City of Clinton which will allow us to begin to provide some relief, and a critical health service, to our citizens who have been besieged by the explosion in the mosquito population in the aftermath of the storm, particularly in those areas that saw the majority of the flooding,” stated County Manager Ed Causey. “The funds are limited for a county

of as large as ours geographically and sparsely populated in many areas, but we are trying to use those limited resources to provide the best measure of relief possible.”

The spray that will be utilized is an adulticide and will not kill mosquito larvae, so citizens will still have to be vigilant in eliminating mosquito habitats on their properties. The best course of action is Tip and Toss – tip over all containers that can hold standing water (flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires, etc.) and toss out any trash. Citizens should also reduce their exposure to mosquitoes by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long-pants while outdoors and using mosquito-repellent that contains DEET or an equivalent when outside, using caution when applying to children. More information on mosquito control can be found on the CDC website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/controlling-mosquitoes-at-home.html>.

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