



## Board of Commissioners

Julius Kwiatkowski

Chair

Barbara Sgroi

Vice-Chair

Florence Fruehan

Treasurer

Release Date 6/20/2020

Media Contact: Mark Positano  
386-225-5916

### **East Flagler Mosquito Control District Fights the Bite** National Mosquito Control Awareness Week Begins June 22

If you live in Florida, you have probably seen or at least heard mosquito fog trucks late at night or early in the morning. This motorized spray equipment is only one part of what mosquito control programs around the country do to control mosquitoes. The trucks work by emitting very fine droplets of pesticide using an air blower and a chemical pump. The pesticide then drifts into backyards in residential areas. At less than one ounce per acre, this is a very small amount of pesticide, just enough to be effective against small insects such as mosquitoes. Helicopters, boats, all-terrain vehicles, and boots on the ground are all used to combat the scourge of mosquitoes. Much of this takes place out of public sight because it is done in areas where people don't go but mosquitoes like to call home.

Timing is everything. Mosquitoes are most active as the sun is setting and again before the sun rises. The term for this pattern of activity is crepuscular. Coincidentally, this is when people tend to be outside in the summertime to take advantage of the cooler temps before the heat of the day and after it starts to cool off in the evening. Mosquitoes are no dummies.

While mosquitoes might seem ubiquitous, they are in fact not omnipresent. Controlling mosquitoes has as much to do with monitoring for mosquitoes as it does with applying pesticides. Every morning before the sun is up, mosquito control personnel go out looking for adults by monitoring collection traps and bite stations. Once the population exceeds a baseline, control measures are applied. The daylight hours are spent surveying breeding sites and applying treatments before they can emerge as biting adults. The helicopter makes quick work of this when working in the salt marsh.

Mosquitoes exploit the ebb and flow of standing water, which they need for their eggs to develop, by laying eggs in locations that dry down in between rains to escape predation from fish. And when those eggs hatch after a substantial rain, they reproduce in such large numbers that bats, purple martins, and dragon flies cannot consume enough of them to make a dent in the population.

Mosquitoes are a nuisance but they are also the [deadliest animal](#) on the planet for humans according to the CDC. East Flagler Mosquito Control Chairman Jules Kwiatkowski describes it this way, "mosquitoes don't bite, they suck. And when they do, they have the potential to spread disease." The female mosquito spreads disease when it goes looking for a blood meal which it needs to lay its eggs. Certain diseases cycle back and forth between mosquitoes and other animals some of which are endemic like West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

To get more information, visit our website or visit the Bunnell or Palm Coast libraries to see our display.

The East Flagler Mosquito Control District was established in 1952 and stretches from the coastal areas of Marineland and Flagler Beach inland to Palm Coast and Bunnell.

\*\*\*

### **East Flagler Mosquito Control District**

210 Airport Executive Drive  
Palm Coast, Florida 32164

Phone: 386-437-0002

Fax: 386-437-0200

[flaglermosquito.com](http://flaglermosquito.com)