

THE TOWN OF Batesburg-Leesville

Town Seeks Residents Assistance in Combating Mosquitoes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ted Luckadoo

803-532-4601 | tluckadoo@batesburg-leesville.org

Over the summer, the Batesburg-Leesville Town Hall staff has spoken to a number of citizens concerned about Zika, and other mosquito transmitted viruses. Town officials have been monitoring the situation, learning from various state resources, and taking action through vector control.

“We started paying attention to Zika back in February,” said Ted Luckadoo, Town Manager. “Nearly every conference and workshop this year has had speakers from DHEC and other organizations explaining the Zika virus and how to address the issue.”

Every spring, just as the initial mosquito population takes flight, staff from the Town’s Public Works Department conducts spraying operations to control and reduce the mosquito population. Crews use a variety of chemicals that specifically target mosquitoes, especially those that transmit viruses.

“We start in the spring, and continue spraying all summer long; especially in areas of high mosquito activity,” noted Mr. Luckadoo. The Town’s spraying program is effective, but only one tool in combating mosquitoes. “An active spraying program is good, but we need help from the public to eliminate breeding sources.” The Town sprays along right-of-ways and common areas, such as Town parks, but assistance by businesses and homeowners is greatly needed to ensure reduced population.

According to SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, mosquitoes develop in water that stands for more than five days. DHEC advises home owners and businesses to reduce or eliminate all standing water and debris that could allow water to collect. Likely breeding sources include pool covers, birdbaths, children’s toys, old tires, unattended pet bowls, and much more.

All residents are encouraged to continue to take precautions by following the **4 Ds of prevention**:

Drain all standing water around your house weekly.

Dusk & Dawn are when mosquitoes are most active, so limit outdoor activities during those times.

DEET is an effective ingredient in insect repellants. Always carefully read & follow label instructions when using products with this ingredient.

Dress in long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk or in areas where there is a lot of mosquito activity.

For more information, the Town has republished a simple to follow guide published by SC DHEC on its website at www.batesburg-leesville.org.

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