

## **Aerial Spraying in Washington Parish Scheduled To Reduce Mosquito Numbers after Hurricane Ida**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: September 17, 2021

Washington Parish Officials have scheduled an aerial spray operation this week for eight high density populated areas within Washington Parish to help reduce the number of mosquitoes resulting from the flooding caused by Hurricane Ida and Tropical Storm Nicholas. (See attached map) **The aerial application will begin late evening, Saturday, September 18th at approximately 7:00pm and continue until till about 3:00am, weather permitting.** The aerial application may take 3 days to complete, based on weather conditions.

A written request of the State public health officials for mosquito abatement measures was made after FEMA consulted with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based on evidence of a significant increase in mosquito population presenting a threat to our residents and emergency workers working out-of-doors in their recovery efforts.

Insecticide formulations must be among those approved and registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and must be applied according to label directions and precautions by appropriately trained and certified applicators. Dibrom is an insecticide that has been registered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1959 for use in the United States. The EPA has classified Dibrom in Group E “Evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans.

It is used primarily for controlling adult mosquitoes. It is formulated for use on food and feed crops, livestock pastures, and in greenhouses for controlling small nuisance insects much smaller than bees. Dibrom is an extremely rapid degradant on surfaces, and therefore residues decline very quickly to a level that does not pose any potential concern after an aerial application. Vector Disease Control, Inc. (VDCI), will be using a pre-mixed formulation applied neat at ½ once per acre, a VMD of 30 microns per acre just enough to kill mosquitos but not harm bees.

All application operations will be conducted during nighttime hours from 7pm to 3am as they target nocturnal *Culex* mosquitoes, the primary vectors for West Nile virus. Exposure to bees or other pollinators should not occur as the spraying happens after the bees have returned to their hives. Though the amount applied is formulated to target much smaller insects than bees, beekeepers may elect to cover hives during the spraying operations to reduce exposure.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires notification to the public when aerial spray operations are to occur.

For additional information and/or maps of the intended spray area contact VDCI at 800-413-4445.