

## Freeport Mosquito Abatement District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- Thursday, July 20, 2017

Freeport, IL - The Freeport Mosquito Abatement District reports today a substantial increase of the mosquito population in the district. The district relies on mosquito counts from four locations within the City of Freeport. The levels have quadrupled on Tuesday July 11 since last Thursday July 7. This level is the highest recorded over the last 15 years. As a result a district wide treatment was conducted Tuesday night July 11th between the hours of 10 pm and 2am. This treatment reduced the mosquito population but unfortunately not below an acceptable nuisance level. Another district wide treatment was conducted July 18<sup>th</sup> between 10pm and 2 am. So far this season, there have also been two larvicide treatments in May and June and one district wide truck treatment this past Tuesday. We realize the amount of mosquitos is difficult to experience but we ask for your patience as we work through the process of abating the mosquitos. We strongly recommend using the mosquito hotline number to register high levels of mosquitos, any standing water near you and if you would like to be added to the list of people to notify of when truck spraying occurs. **1 800 942 2555**. Please keep in mind there has been a very high volume of calls. Citizens may also contact by email to [callcenter@clarke.com](mailto:callcenter@clarke.com)

The District recommends that the best way to prevent the biting of mosquitos is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Precautions include:

1. Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dusk and dawn. Use prevention methods whenever mosquitoes are present. Mosquitos are less active between the 10 am and 4 pm.
2. When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535 according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
3. Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have rips or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.
4. Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.