

Regional District of Central Okanagan Mosquito Control - West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Program

Measures	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Known Breeding Sites	300+ *	294	294	294	210
# of Application Sites	127	126	151	116	117
# of Applications	549	442	585	652	478
Average # of Applications per Site	2.5	2.7	2.1	3.3	4

* Additional sites added with monitoring of locations on Westbank First Nation reserves

The mandate of the program is to provide effective and efficient mosquito control through the reduction and management of mosquito larvae in an environmentally friendly manner in order to contribute positively to the quality of life and minimize the risk of West Nile Virus to residents in the Central Okanagan.

Program Questions and Answers

When does it run?

From April through September each year known breeding locations on public land throughout the Regional District, its member municipalities and Westbank First Nation reserves are inspected for signs of mosquito larvae. There needs to be standing water for at least seven days for mosquitoes to thrive. If larvae are found, environmentally friendly pellets are “seeded” into the water, which kills the larvae within 48 hours. The area is visited at least once every week to ensure there are no new hatches.

What is the pellet used in the larvicide program?

The larvicide acronym is BTI for *Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis*, a bacterial extract that the larvae stage of the mosquito has to ingest. The proteins in the ingested bacterium rupture the gut of the mosquito larvae. BTI is short-lived and is non-toxic. However, as a precaution, it may not be applied in water that is connected to a fish-bearing stream.

How many sites are monitored?

There are 300 plus known mosquito larvae breeding locations on public lands in the Central Okanagan as well as on Westbank First Nation reserves. Also more than 11,000 catch basins are monitored and treated as needed throughout the Central Okanagan.

Who licenses the program?

The Regional District of Central Okanagan has a permit from the Provincial Government to conduct the larvicide application program. The provincial government licenses larvicide applicators. The RDCO keeps a record of the location, number of applications needed and the volume of BTI used.

Will the Regional District check possible mosquito breeding sites on private property?

No, RDCO staff is not allowed to go onto private property to check for mosquitoes. Residents can report concerns with mosquitoes on public land by calling 1-866-679-8473.

Why is this type of nuisance control program used?

This program is sensitive to the need to protect our environment and has proven effective in controlling the nuisance mosquito population throughout the Central Okanagan while also reducing the potential risk of the West Nile Virus.