

DELAWARE MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION

FAQ #6. How can I found out when and where mosquito control spraying might next be done?

If you want to know about when a mosquito control spraying might occur in your area, for whatever reasons or interest you might have, you can receive our daily **spray announcements** automatically on your home or business computer (via e-mail notification over the Internet) by subscribing to our Mosquito Control **listserver** at <http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/DNREC2000/admin/maillists/maillists.htm>. Because of many complicating factors in planning, preparing and performing our often daily spray operations (such as varying locations or intensities of mosquito problems that often aren't known by our field inspections until the last minute, but which then need rapid response, or our having to contend with fluctuating wind or weather conditions), the most advance notice that we can routinely give might be up to 24 hours lead time, but sometimes it might be as short as only 4 hours notice (this short lead time obviously negates us being able to give any effective advance notice of our spray plans in daily newspapers). You can also directly electronically access the Mosquito Control Section's updated advance spray announcements at your convenience, **by contacting the Section's website** at <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Services/Pages/MosquitoSection.aspx>.

If you don't have a computer or lack access to the Internet, or if you prefer not to use such electronic approaches, you can listen to one of several **radio stations** that as **public service announcements** often broadcast Mosquito Control's current plans for upcoming sprays. On a daily basis we submit our spray announcements to over 12 radio stations around the state, but unfortunately we have no control over if, when or how often these stations might run our spray notices.

We also have a **toll-free phone line at 1-800-338-8181** that you can call as often as you like, to listen to our **taped spray announcements** that are updated daily.

If you live within an incorporated city or town, by our Spray Policy we routinely notify designated local officials in advance of almost all of spray operations occurring within city or town limits. In many cases it will also be these local city or town officials who initially requested our spray services. In turn, municipal officials might then try to provide further advance spray notifications to their constituents, so you might want to check with your local city or town officers.

Finally, with the terrorism events of "9-11" (September 11, 2001 in New York City and Washington, D.C.) having caused much heightened concern about many security issues, it's important for the public to know that when they observe our low-flying aircraft or "fog trucks" going about our business of spraying mosquitoes, "it's just us" doing what we're charged to do. In order to help accomplish this awareness for the public and other agencies too, we now routinely also inform the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) about our spraying operations, among several federal, state or county agencies for which we routinely provide such information.