



For Immediate Release

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Contact: [Alia Faraj-Johnson](#), 850-212-8317

Hurricane Recovery Continues As the ‘World’s Deadliest Animal’ Spreads Across Florida

~Florida’s Highly Trained Mosquito Control Professionals are Working to Protect
Families, Businesses~

Tallahassee, FL- Hurricanes bring a time-delayed risk that can increase the struggles of post-storm recovery.

Florida residents have had to deal with massive flooding and rising waters because of back-to-back Hurricanes Helene and Milton. After any major rain event that creates large amounts of standing water, a sudden uptick in mosquitoes can occur up to two weeks later. And depending on winds, mosquitoes can travel up to 60 miles, expanding the numbers of Floridians potentially affected.

The [Florida Mosquito Control Association](#) (FMCA) and its members - 67 mosquito control programs including 15 independent districts - are meeting and collaborating to ensure our state is prepared to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne disease.

“Like many Floridians, our mosquito control professionals are still working to rebuild their lives after Helene and Milton,” said FMCA President Richard Weaver. “They, like many first responders, are deployed in affected communities to help friends and neighbors recover. Over the past few weeks, our FMCA members have seen an increase in service calls, and they are prepared to respond and help control mosquitoes in impacted areas.”

There are more than 80 mosquito species in Florida, and nearly one-fourth of them can transmit diseases. This year Florida has seen increases in mosquito-borne disease activity – including locally transmitted and travel related cases in humans. We have

already seen reports of West Nile virus infections in humans, local Dengue cases on the rise, and now Oropouche is emerging as a new threat. The increased flooding from the recent hurricanes adds another layer of complexity when responding to these diseases.

“Controlling mosquitoes is a direct factor in the ability of businesses of all sizes to continue full-strength operation,” Weaver said. “Reducing the risk of disease helps state and local economies to stay strong and growing.”

While the 24/7 work of highly trained, locally based mosquito control experts successfully reduce the risks of mosquito-borne illness, all Floridians should take smart steps to protect themselves.

The American Mosquito Control Association has a summary of those small measures, calling them [the three D's of protection](#).

- Drain – Following a rain or storm, each household and property becomes a resort for mosquitoes looking for a place to lay her eggs. Mosquitoes only need a teaspoon of water to develop, so emptying even small accumulations of water outside can make a difference.
- Dress – Wear long sleeves and long pants that are light-colored and loose-fitting. These clothing choices are a deterrent to mosquitoes.
- Defend – Mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin and IR3535 are powerful shields against mosquitoes. If a more natural product is preferred, repellents containing Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus are great options.

For more information about the FMCA please [click here](#). And for teachers and parents, [the FMCA has resources to inform children](#) about the science and background of mosquitoes and efforts to control them.

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