



Florida's Zika Response

The two species of mosquitoes that most commonly carry the Zika virus are found in the Southeastern United States and prefer breeding close to human populations, specifically in water-holding containers such as birdbaths and tires. The primary method of controlling Zika is through mosquito control. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is currently coordinating with the Florida Department of Health (DOH), Florida Department of Agriculture (DACS) and local governments to assist in planning and response efforts.

Mosquito-Control Practices for Waste Tire Sites

- » DEP's Division of Waste Management regulates facilities that have 1,500 or more waste tires stored on-site. Piles of used and waste tires must be neatly stacked and facilities must implement mosquito control practices to prevent breeding.
- » To complement the efforts of the local mosquito control programs, DEP is working diligently across the state on three main fronts:
 - **Inspecting permitted tire processing facilities** – DEP is conducting inspections of permitted waste tire sites to ensure that they are operating in compliance and have mosquito-control practices in place. These inspections are being prioritized by counties with known Zika cases.
 - **Addressing illegal waste tire sites** – DEP is working to clean up illegal sites, ensuring the sites have mosquito-control practices in place, obtaining access to illegal sites, and bringing these sites into compliance. Special emphasis is being placed on counties with known Zika cases and sites that have granted DEP site access.
 - **Waste tire amnesty days** – DEP is partnering with local governments to host “tire drives” so residents can - at no cost - bring waste tires to a central location for proper processing. Contact your local solid waste department for information on scheduled tire drives in your area.

DRAIN & COVER

DRAIN: Water from garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater has collected.

DISCARD: Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

EMPTY and CLEAN: Birdbaths and pet water bowls at least once or twice a week.

PROTECT: Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

MAINTAIN: The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches and patios.

CLOTHING: If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.

REPELLENT: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol and IR3535 are effective. Use netting to protect children younger than two months.

continued

Department of Health

- » State and local health departments are working closely with other partners to make sure health-care providers and people at risk for Zika virus infections stay informed with the most current science and public information about the Zika virus.
- » DOH is also providing education about effective repellents and insecticides.
- » County health department staff report suspected Zika fever cases to local mosquito-control staff to make sure mosquito-control activities are put in place.



Aedes aegypti mosquito
Photo by James Gathany
of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

While DOH is the lead agency in this public-health crisis, DACS is supporting efforts by:

- » Regularly communicating with local mosquito-control programs to discuss mosquito surveillance and control efforts.
- » Providing technical assistance to mosquito-control programs and DOH regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's arbovirus guidelines.
- » Obtaining and disseminating traps specifically for the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes and preparing the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory to be able to test mosquitoes for the Zika virus.