FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mosquito spraying increased in western Flagler County

November 2, 2016 – The East Flagler Mosquito Control District during the wee hours of Wednesday morning sprayed western portions of the county in an effort to keep populations down.

“They have been working very well with us, and it’s no shock that the numbers increased after Hurricane Matthew but they are now on the decline,” Flagler County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “We are trying to keep that trend going.”

Crews began spraying the area along county roads 302 and 305 and in Espanola and the final application will be made Friday night.

A chart of mosquitoes trapped shows the numbers spiked about October 20, but had dropped back down by the end of the month.

“We are blessed to have people like Director Joe Cash, who really know what they are doing,” Coffey said. “They have been doing a great job staying on top of this.”

Information is included on the East Flagler Mosquito Control District website, www.flaglermosquito.com, from the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences extension office to help residents control mosquito populations on their own properties.

Source reduction is the “most important” technique that homeowners can use. “Since mosquitoes need water to live, removing water sources around the home goes a long way to prevent mosquitoes,” it states.

Water intentionally collected for use, such as rain barrels, should be covered with screening or a lid to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.

- Water not intentionally collected – such as what collects in discarded bottles, cans and buckets – should be emptied and properly discarded.
- Bird baths and bromeliad plants should be flushed out every three to four days during the summer.
- Dispose of old appliances and tires.
- Clean out roof gutters.
- Check and repair leaky faucets.
- Check for standing water and drain if possible.
- Water gardens and ornamental ponds should either be aerated or stocked with fish to reduce mosquito populations.
- Repair torn window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from coming indoors.
• Fans can be used to keep mosquitoes away as they are weak flyers.

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