FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler officials: drain, cover standing water

October 10, 2016 – Flagler County officials remind residents that preventing mosquito bites is the best way to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease.

“It’s been enough days that mosquitoes have had enough time to breed,” Flagler County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “There has been a lot of talk about Zika this year but there are many other diseases that mosquitoes carry, and we really don’t want to have a problem with any of them.

The following are some steps that can be taken to help prevent mosquito bites:

DRAIN: water from garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water 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's 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 (poolchemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools. 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-methane-diol, and IR3535 are effective. Use netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

Residents with questions are encouraged to phone the Call-in Center at 386-586-5111. People are available to answer calls from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

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