



CITY OF MONTE VISTA

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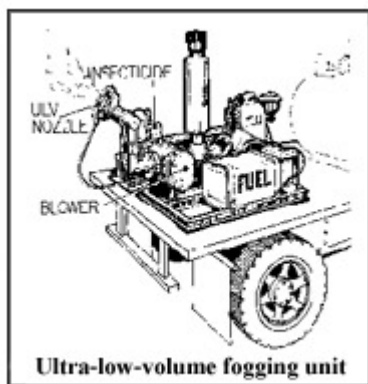
Mosquito Spray Article

Monte Vista Mosquito Spray FAQs

FAQs: Spraying for Adult Mosquitoes

How are adult mosquitoes controlled?

- Mosquito control agencies use truck-mounted fogging units to apply insecticides as an ultra-low-volume (ULV) spray. ULV spray units dispense very fine aerosol droplets (fog) that stay aloft and kill mosquitoes on contact. The amount of insecticide sprayed by ULV units is small compared to the area treated, usually about 3 to 5 ounces per acre, which minimizes exposure and risks to people and the environment. Monte Vista uses truck mounted ULV foggers.



What agency conducts mosquito control in Monte Vista?

- It is locally carried out by the City of Monte Vista Public Works and funded through fees assessed on your water/sewer bill. There are communities that are part of a local government agency called a mosquito

abatement district that receives local property taxes to conduct mosquito control operations, such as the Alamosa Mosquito Control District.

Why is the local government fogging for mosquitoes in my community?

- Monte Vista decided to fog because of the nuisance caused by hoards of biting mosquitoes. Around 2003, officials decided to fog because testing of mosquitoes and wild birds may have shown that mosquito-borne West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus and Zeke virus is present in the community. Testing stopped in 2015 due to budget constraints. By Ordinance, mosquitos have been determined a nuisance and therefore current procedures spray the entire community for nuisance control.

Why do they fog for mosquitoes when I am out taking my evening walk?

- The best time to kill adult mosquitoes by fogging is at dusk, when they are most active and looking for food (mosquitoes feed on human or animal blood). The aerosol fog primarily targets flying mosquitoes, which is why the timing of the spray is critical. Monte Vista spray operations start at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

Will local officials notify me before fogging?

- Yes Monte Vista posts notice of annual spray operations in our local newspaper and on local radio stations. It is also posted on the City's website and our Facebook page. Monte Vista's current schedule for Mosquito Spray Operations is Thursday evenings beginning at 8:00 p.m. and continuing until approximately 1:00 a.m. Friday morning. If more spray operations are needed the City will notify citizens through the local radio stations and newspapers and post notices on our website and Facebook page.

What insecticides are used to fog for mosquitoes?

- The most commonly used products are synthetic pyrethroid insecticides, pyrethrins and malathion. Monte Vista uses a combination of the brand name Fyfanon® (Malathion) and Biomist® (pyrethrin). All insecticides used for

mosquito control must be registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). You can find fact sheets about some insecticides commonly used to kill mosquitoes on the USEPA web site, <<http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/skeeters.htm>>.

How long does the fog kill mosquitoes?

- During the fogging, flying mosquitoes within the treated area are killed. Although the local mosquito population is reduced for a few days, fogging does not prevent mosquitoes from re-entering the area.

If the city has been fogged for mosquitoes, are all mosquitoes in my area eliminated?

- Fogging will kill only part of the mosquitoes in your area for a few days. Consequently, individuals should always use personal protection when mosquitoes are present:
- When possible, avoid places and times when mosquitoes bite.
- Wear light-colored protective clothing. Tightly woven materials that cover arms and legs provide some protection from mosquito bites. Keep trouser legs tucked into boots or socks, and collars buttoned.
- Make sure door and window screens fit tightly and all holes are repaired.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure, and to protect children any time they are outside.
- If participating in outdoor activities when mosquitoes are biting, wear protective clothing (shoes, socks, shirt and long pants). For additional protection from mosquitoes, use an insect repellent. The more DEET a product contains, the longer the repellent can protect against mosquito bites. However, concentrations higher than 50 percent do not increase the length of protection. For most situations, 10 percent to 25 percent DEET is adequate. Apply repellents to clothes whenever possible; apply sparingly to exposed skin if label permits. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.

Are the insecticides used for fogging safe?

- The USEPA reviews and approves insecticides (and other pesticides) and their labeling to ensure those used to protect public health are applied by methods that minimize the risk of human exposure and adverse health and environmental effects. Generally, there is no need to relocate during mosquito control fogging. The insecticides have been evaluated for this use and have been found to pose minimal risk to human health and the environment when used according to label directions. For example, USEPA has estimated the exposure and risks to both adults and children posed by ULV aerial and ground applications of the insecticides malathion and naled.
- For all the scenarios considered, exposures ranged from 100 to 10,000 times below the amount of pesticide that might pose a health concern. These estimates assumed several spraying events over a period of weeks and also assumed that a toddler would ingest some soil and grass in addition to dermal exposure. Other mosquito control insecticides pose similarly low risks. Nevertheless, because insecticides are inherently toxic, no pesticide is absolutely risk free. The likelihood of experiencing adverse health effects as a result of exposure to any pesticide depends primarily on the amount of pesticide that a person contacts and the amount of time the person is in contact with that pesticide. In addition, a person's age, sex, genetic makeup, lifestyle and/or general health characteristics can affect his or her likelihood of experiencing adverse health effects as a result of exposure to insecticides. Although mosquito control insecticides pose low risks, some people may prefer to minimize or to avoid exposure to these chemicals. Here are some common sense steps to help reduce possible exposure to insecticides:
 - Listen and watch for announcements in the local media about fogging for mosquitoes and remain indoors during the application in your neighborhood.
 - If possible, remain inside whenever fogging takes place.
 - People who suffer from chemical sensitivities or feel fogging could aggravate a preexisting health condition should consult their doctor or local health department and take special measures to avoid exposure.
 - Close windows and doors and turn off your air conditioning (or set it to circulate indoor air) when fogging is taking place in the immediate area.

- Do not let children play near or behind truck-mounted applicators when they are in use. To ensure the fogging trucks have left the area, keep children inside during fogging and for about one hour after fogging.
- Bring pets inside and cover ornamental fish ponds to avoid direct exposure.
- Consult your doctor if you think you are experiencing health effects from the fogging.
- More information about spraying for adult mosquitoes may be found on the USEPA's Web site:
<<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/citizens/pmcfs.pdf>>.
- Monte Vista has our truck sprayers calibrated annually to meet regulations and we train our drivers in the proper spray techniques which include speed and limitations on wind speed and weather

*Much of data in this article is from the Illinois Department of Public Health
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