

Cache Mosquito Abatement District

2011 Annual Report

Created by ballot in November 2004, the Cache Mosquito Abatement District (CMAD) now serves all of Cache County except the communities of Paradise, River Heights, and Logan and the College-Young Ward mosquito abatement district. The program utilizes an integrated pest management program that consists of three main areas: surveillance, abatement, and education. The District has contracted with Bear River Health Department to provide the surveillance and abatement services; however, that partnership ended by mutual agreement on October 1st. Over the years, the CMAD Board of Trustees has been learning from BRHD and is now ready to run the program. CMAD also has a website with information and links on fogging schedules, mosquito life cycle, and more at www.cachemosquito.com.

Highlights of the 2011 season:

- No mosquito pools tested positive for WNV (West Nile virus). This doesn't mean that the virus has disappeared from the district; the virus must become active in the primary host (birds) before it infects horses or humans.
- The season ran a couple of weeks later throughout the year because of the prolonged cool weather in the spring; fogging didn't start until the second week of June.
- Fogging ended the middle of September. Surveillance continued until September 30 to see if adult mosquito numbers continued to decline or had a rebound (they declined).
- More larvacide pesticides were used because of the high amount of standing water due to the wet spring and summer.
- Interviews to local newspapers and radio stations were given
- The website was updated and moved to a new hosting platform
- Three trustees attended the annual Utah Mosquito Abatement Association conference
- The clerk attended the annual Utah Association of Special Districts conference
- 90% of the trustees received the annual trustee training provided by the State Auditor's Office
- Two new policies were adopted: cell phone usage and surplus property procedures
- A Capital Improvement Plan was adopted, describing the planned equipment and vehicle replacement cycles
- The financial reports were submitted on time and are available to the public on the State Auditors website (www.sao.utah.gov)

Currently the pesticides used in the abatement program are primarily organophosphates. These are effective, safe, and cheap. The Board continues to review and evaluate the pesticides used for abatement.

The abatement and surveillance programs seem to have reached an optimal level of equipment and personnel. With just four workers the district is able to larvacide the entire district each week. Three more workers provide the adulticide services and are generally able (weather permitting) to hit the areas with high numbers of adult mosquitoes.

Public awareness, especially of the larvacide program, is growing. We received multiple requests from various media outlets this year as well as many requests from citizens to check standing water on their property for mosquito larva.

A new part of the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program affecting mosquito districts had its implementation delayed until November 1, 2011. A permit (cost unknown still) will be required annually to apply pesticide for the control of mosquitoes.

The Board is committed to run a lean, efficient mosquito abatement program. The tax rate was not increased this year nor will it be for 2012. The Board has prepared job descriptions and will be hiring a field operations manager and administrative manager shortly. This next year will undoubtedly bring challenges as the Board and the new managers implement the abatement and surveillance programs, but we anticipate having another successful season of providing mosquito control to our members.

Contact information for the district:

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