

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL INC.

JULY 2020 UPDATE

As COVID-19 restrictions eased, people began to spend more time outside. As we left our houses, we went outside where a face covering doesn't protect us from mosquito or tick diseases. People may be overloaded with public health warnings and won't be attentive to recommendations about mosquito and tick-borne disease risks, such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), West Nile Virus (WNV), Jamestown Canyon Virus or Lyme disease.

Arboviral disease updates:

- As of this writing, EEE and WNV have not been detected in NH
- Here in New Hampshire, we may see our first WNV positive mosquito in the second week of August
- On average, EEE positive mosquitoes are detected at the end of August.
- The number of mosquito batches we submit to the State Lab is lower this season in part because the State has changed the criteria limiting what we may send
- Fortunately, the NH State Lab is continuing to test mosquitoes where as many state health departments don't have the time, staffing or money due to COVID-19
- EEE and WNV mosquitoes have been found in 20 Massachusetts' municipalities
- The first human EEE case has been detected in Massachusetts with an onset of 7/20/20

Dragon crews and communities alike had the good fortune of lower numbers of greenhead flies this season. In a typical summer, we remove the greenhead fly traps from the marsh by the end of summer. In 1991, we learned what a hurricane can do to greenhead traps when Hurricane Bob made landfall in New England and all of the greenhead traps were destroyed.

Highlights of Dragon's work in Rye this month:

- Dragon crews larvicided salt marshes 12 days in July due to flood tides
- 352 catch basins were treated
- We started taking greenhead fly traps off the marshes on July 31st when tropical storm Isaias was forecast to affect New England
- Each week adult mosquitoes were trapped at five locations throughout town
- Adult mosquitoes were processed and identified to species
- 29 mosquito batches have been sent to the State Lab for disease testing

As our active WNV and EEE season begins, continue to dump out standing water each time it rains. Remember to check anywhere water collects such as boats, tarps, pool covers, dog bowls, birdbaths, tires and buckets. Also, protect yourselves from mosquito bites. Wear long pants and long sleeves, use EPA registered insect repellent and avoid being outside at dusk and dawn whenever possible. Avoiding mosquito bites is the number one way to prevent mosquito borne disease.