

Dealing with mosquitos related to the flood

After a severe storm, mosquito populations can explode, and the diseases they carry can be a danger to humans. Mosquito problems occur in two distinct waves after a flood. The first to arrive are the flood water mosquitoes, which include the salt marsh (*Aedes taeniorhynchus*, *Aedes sollicitans*) and pastureland mosquitoes (*Psorophora columbiae*, *Psorophora cyanescens*, *Aedes vexans*). These mosquito species deposit their eggs on the soil in areas that are flooded periodically. When flooded, the eggs hatch 5 to 7 days later, resulting in large swarms of mosquitoes during the warmest times of the year.

After a hurricane has passed through an area and flooding occurs, mosquitoes will lay eggs near standing water. Mosquito populations usually increase greatly after flooding. Most of these mosquitoes will not spread viruses, but some could.

Hurricanes and Mosquitoes

- Adult mosquitoes outside do not generally survive high winds during a hurricane.
- Flooding washes away young mosquitoes and immediately causes a temporary decrease in the mosquito population.
- Within days of flooding, mosquito eggs will hatch and adult mosquitoes that survived the storm will lay new eggs. Within a couple of weeks, mosquito populations will greatly increase. Most of these mosquitoes will not spread viruses, but some could.

Hurricanes and Viruses

- Studies show that hurricanes and floods do not typically cause an increase in viruses spread by mosquitoes.
- However, because people spend more time outside cleaning up after a hurricane or flood, they are more likely to get bitten by mosquitoes.
- Small increases in the numbers of West Nile Virus cases were noted in some areas of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

Controlling Mosquitoes and Preventing Mosquito Bites

- After a hurricane or flood, the health department or mosquito control district will often take steps to reduce the mosquito population.
- Residents can take steps to help control mosquitoes in and around their homes to prevent mosquito bites.

For more information, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/mosquitoes-and-hurricanes.html>

Brazoria County Health Department

Public Health Emergency Preparedness
1524 E. Mulberry, St. 185
Angleton, TX 77515

