

Escambia County Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Residents Must Protect Against Mosquito-Borne Illness During Hurricane Clean-Up

Pensacola, FL – With residents spending more time outside for hurricane clean-up and with floodwaters adding mosquito breeding sites, the Escambia County Health Department advises residents protect themselves from mosquito-borne disease like West Nile Virus:

(1) Clear Breeding Sites

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires, and drill holes in playground-gym tires so that they will drain
- Turn over plastic pots and replace water in birdbaths or animal feeding dishes
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that collects water; pump out bilges on boats.

(2) Don't go outside at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

(3) Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.

(4) Use a repellent with DEET, but read label directions carefully. When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing up to 30 percent DEET are recommended. **Do not apply repellent to the hands of children** -- adults should apply repellent first to their own hands and then transfer it to childrens' skin and clothing.

(5) Use Repellent Safely – Especially for Children

- Read label directions carefully -- some repellants are not suitable for children.
Repellent with DEET is not recommended on children under 2 months old
- Do not apply under clothing.
- Infants should be kept indoors or place mosquito netting over carriers when mosquitoes are present.

Escambia County Citizen Information Line: 471-6600

Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557

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