



COUNTY OF MERCER

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BRIAN M. HUGHES
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MERCER COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL WORKING TO SAFEGUARD HEALTH OF RESIDENTS

With a warm spring arriving on the heels of a mild winter this year, Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes cautions County residents that the mosquito season is expected to start earlier than usual. Mr. Hughes also notes that even though the County runs a highly sophisticated Mosquito Control program to safeguard the health of residents, and has embarked on a multi-year study of the Asian tiger mosquito, mosquitoes remain a reality in the area throughout the warmer months.

“To reduce the risks from mosquitoes to local residents, our Mosquito Control office practices what is known as Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) to suppress mosquito populations in Mercer County; therefore, both larval and adult surveillance programs are the backbone of our operations,” added Mr. Hughes.

Superintendent of Mosquito Control Isik Unlu explains the process. “We generally initiate larval surveillance in mid-March, and adult surveillance during the first week of May; however, we did not take a break this year since Zika virus has been in the headlines every day,” she said. **The only immediate threat to Mercer County residents from Zika virus exists for travelers to areas where the virus is currently circulating.** If travel to these areas cannot be avoided, residents should take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing long-sleeve shirts and long pants, using an appropriate repellent, and staying indoors when mosquitoes are most active.

Dr. Unlu added that her crew has been recycling tires, which is one of the major larval habitats of Asian tiger mosquitoes, and will continue to address potential habitats before the mosquito season starts. She is calling for Lawrenceville residents to help with the effort because Asian tiger mosquitoes are a backyard problem, and community involvement is crucial for success. Residents are asked to do the following:

- Empty out water from containers in and around your backyard such as buckets, recycle bins and potted-plant saucers.
- Store tires indoors or away from rain. Check for tire recycling programs in your area.

- Empty and replace water in bird baths at least once a week. Do not forget: water plus seven days equals mosquitoes.
- Make sure drain pipes slope downward. These drain pipes are dominated by Asian tiger mosquito immatures, and this species is an aggressive day biter.
- Maintain your pool. Remove water from tarps and pool covers.

For more information about protecting your family from mosquitoes all summer long, as well as up-to-date information about mosquito-borne diseases, contact Mercer County Mosquito Control at (609) 530-7501 or <http://nj.gov/counties/mercerc/departments/mcmc/>.



Isik Unlu is sampling for larval mosquito habitats with her crew.