

Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District 2004 Year End Report

Safety: Steps were taken to insure we fully comply with all safety rules and regulations. Safety issues were a top priority this year and will remain so in the future. Safety was addressed at our kick off meeting in April and discussed and reinforced at other times when appropriate.

We initiated a Hazardous Materials Training program. We placed chemical spill kits in all vehicles and in the store room. We posted signage and supplied all employees with proper safety equipment.

Field Work: In 2004 our crews worked longer and harder in the field. They spent 33% more hours checking sites, answering service requests (calls from the Hot Line) and treating for larva and adult mosquitoes. We used 43% more product (in dollars) to control mosquitoes in our county.

We began work earlier this year. Field work started in late March as apposed to mid April in 2004.

Service Requests: The number of hot line calls was down this year. This is an indication of better mosquito control as well as faster response and better visibility in the community.

Adult Survey: We set traps twice as many days in 2003 as in 2004. We more then doubled the number of individual traps set in the county. Most of the extra trapping was done at Silver Lake; however we also increased the number of traps in the rest of the county by 14%.

The focus of our Adult surveys was a little different this year. We set traps to answer specific questions and located specific problem areas. We were able to prove the effectiveness of our adulticide program and to adjust our application rate of adulticide to improve mosquito kill. We gained a much better understanding of the *Coquillettidia perturbans* problem at Silver Lake and have developed better plans for treatment in the future. We also made trapping data available to individual citizens who have specific issues. This went a long way to improving our image in the community.

We were able to increase our efforts and better focus our adult survey program and still save money over 2003. Most work was done in house this year. Even with the one time purchase of equipment and hiring an entomologist to do half the id work we saved close to \$17,000 over 2003

Record Keeping: The focus of our record keeping is compliance with laws and regulations of Washington State and federal agencies, as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our program.

We developed a new system to collect data in the field and to access that data in the office. This greatly reduced errors and sped up data analysis and reporting.

Kalama: We added the city of Kalama to our district this year. The city was profiled with several adult surveys. We also located and treated all catch basins within the city limits.

Public Communications: We published two papers in the Washington State West Nile News Letter, and had a long article published in the Daily News. When appropriate, we talked with individual citizens about their specific concerns. We spent time discussing their problems in person, by phone and with written memos.

We plan to present a paper and talk about our trapping program at the Washington State Department of Health workshop next spring

Budget: Although we spent more in 2004 than in 2003, we still came in significantly under budget. This allowed us to reduce our budget request for the coming year.

Training: The year began with a "kick off meeting" where we discussed safety and liability issues with all employees. Our main supplier instructed us on the proper and safe use of all our products. He addressed when, where, and how much product to use and how to do that safely. He also went over calibration of equipment. We discussed record keeping and set crew schedules for the coming year.

Five of us were able to attend the annual NWMVC meeting in Vancouver BC in October. Classes are scheduled later this winter to insure licenses are kept up to date. And we hope to send two members of our staff to intensive training this spring in Chicago.

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