

## Primer on Mosquito Control Product “Scourge<sup>®</sup>”

This sheet answers some basic questions about a mosquito control product in use in Camden County. Camden County Mosquito Commission, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information.

### What is Scourge and how is it used?

**Scourge** is an insecticide product that is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. It contains the pesticides called “Resmethrin and Piperonyl Butoxide.” The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) current evaluation considers **Resmethrin and Piperonyl Butoxide**-containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program.

**Scourge** is used for the control of adult mosquitoes. While habitat management and measures to control immature mosquitoes in water are the preferred routine approaches, the spraying of adult mosquitoes is called for when biting populations reach critical levels or when a disease organism is present in adult mosquitoes. A very fine mist is sprayed into the air since flying mosquitoes must directly contact the pesticide in order for it to be effective.

### How can I avoid exposure to Scourge?

Risk to the general public from the use of **Scourge** is minimal. Avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action, particularly for populations that may be at higher risk such as pregnant women, children, the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following some common sense actions:

- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages or distributed by municipal, county or state agencies.
- Plan your activities to limit time spent outside during times of possible pesticide treatments.
- Move children’s toys out of application areas.
- Move animals and their food and water dishes out of application areas.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.
- Whenever possible, remain indoors with windows closed and with window air conditioners on non-vent (closed to the outside air) and window fans turned off during spraying.
- Avoid direct contact with surfaces that are still wet from pesticide spraying. Do not allow children to play in areas that have been sprayed until they have completely dried (approximately one hour).

- If you must remain outdoors, avoid eye and skin contact with the spray. If you get spray in your eyes or on your skin, immediately flush and rinse with water.

### **What are the symptoms of exposure to Scourge?**

Irritation or sensitization sometimes occurs after exposure, causing an asthmatic condition or skin rash. The chance of experiencing these symptoms of exposure with proper use is low. You should contact your physician, other medical providers or the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) at **1-800-222-1222** if you experience these symptoms following a pesticide spraying. Bring this sheet with you if you visit a physician or other medical provider.

### **How long will Scourge last in the environment?**

The **Scourge** spray stays in the air for a short time until it lands on surfaces. **Resmethrin** has a low persistence and lasts no longer than 25 days in water and soil. **Resmethrin** breaks down faster in sunlight.

### **Where can I get more information on Scourge?**

The following are resources for more information regarding **Scourge** and mosquito control in your area (unless otherwise noted, available during normal business hours):

For overall pesticide-specific information – 9:30am to 7:30pm:

**National Pesticide Information Center 800-858-7378**

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

**New Jersey Poison Information & Education System 800-222-1222**

For New Jersey pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:

**NJDEP Pesticide Control Program 609-984-6507**

For Federal pesticide regulation:

**USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs 732-321-6759**

For state-wide mosquito control information:

**NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination 609-292-3649**

For mosquito control recommendations:

**Rutgers University, Department of Entomology 732-932-9437**

For local health information:

**Camden County Dept. of Health and Human Services 856-374-6300**

For local mosquito control information:

**The County Mosquito Control Commission 856-566-2945**