

"Scourge®"

This sheet answers some basic questions about a mosquito control product in use in your county. The Bergen County Mosquito Control Division, 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.

