

## ***Mosquito Control Fact Sheet...***

### **“Altosid” “Metalarv”**

**Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community**

This sheet answers some basic questions about a mosquito control product in use in your county. The Atlantic County Department of Public Works, Office of Mosquito Control, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information. Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community.

#### **What is Altosid and how is it used?**

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

**Methoprene** is used to prevent mosquitoes from hatching in ponds, wetlands and other bodies of stagnant water. It acts on the larval or immature stage of the mosquito in water immediately before the flying mosquito emerges. **Methoprene** is part of an integrated mosquito management approach using habitat management and other measures to control immature mosquitoes before they emerge as adults and become nuisances or vectors of disease.

#### **How can I avoid exposure to Methoprene?**

Risk to the general public from the use of **Methoprene** is minimal. Avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following some common sense actions:

- Plan your activities to limit time spent outside during times of possible pesticide treatments.
- Avoid direct contact with water bodies that have been treated.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.
- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages or distributed by municipal, county or state agencies.

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

**Methoprene** is not a skin irritant or a sensitizer. The chance of experiencing symptoms of exposure with proper use is very 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 any symptoms following a pesticide spraying. Bring this sheet with you if you visit a physician or other medical provider.

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

**Methoprene** has a low persistence and breaks down in water within a few days. In soil, it breaks down in less than 10 days.

**Where can I get more information on Methoprene?**

**The following are resources for more information regarding Methoprene 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**  
<http://npic.orst.edu>

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

**New Jersey Poison Information & Education System** **800-222-1222**  
<http://www.njpies.org>

For New Jersey pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:

**NJDEP Pesticide Control Program** **609-984-6568**  
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo.htm>

For Federal pesticide regulations:

**USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs** **877-251-4575**  
<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/pesticides.html>

For state-wide mosquito control information:

**NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination** **609-292-3649**  
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito>

For local mosquito control information:

**The Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control** **609-645-5948**  
**Mosquito Control & West Nile Virus Information Line** **1-877-6-4-FACTS**  
**Atlantic County Mosquito control Web Page** <https://www.atlanticcountynj.gov/government/county-departments/department-of-public-works/office-of-mosquito-control>

For mosquito control recommendations:

**Rutgers University, Department of Entomology** **848-932-9437**  
<http://vectorbio.rutgers.edu/outreach/bmpmcnj.pdf>

For local health information:

**The Atlantic County Division of Public Health** **609-645-5971**

(Pesticide fact sheet approved by the NJ DEP Pesticide Control Program)