



The Municipal Primer

Your Guide to
Creating a
"Green and Growing"
Community



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Commissioner





Public Health



Photo: CT DEP

Pictured — Low Ground Pressure Excavator Used for Wetland Restoration

Municipal health officials and sanitarians have authorities and responsibilities related to protecting public health, some of which intersect with CT DEP programs. In particular, CT DEP has programs related to certain on-site septic systems, drinking water supply wells, the clean-up of contaminated sites, and wetland restoration/mosquito control. Municipal health departments and sanitarians should be aware of these programs and are encouraged to contact CT DEP for related information or assistance. To aid in coordination between municipal health officials and sanitarians and the CT DEP, this section of *The Municipal Primer* provides fact sheets on the following topics:

- *Mosquito Management and Control*
- *Potable Water Program*

Other fact sheets in *The Municipal Primer* related to municipal health officials and sanitarians functions are:

Brownfields Remediation (Boards, Commissions, Agencies and Committees)

Municipal Wastewater Management Planning (Wastewater Planning and Management)

Wastewater Management Approaches (Wastewater Planning and Management)

Regulating Wastewater at the State Level (Wastewater Planning and Management)

Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces and Wood Stoves (Public Safety and Building Official).



Description

Connecticut's Mosquito Management and Control Program is a comprehensive, intergovernmental program to prevent the transmission of mosquito borne diseases.

Municipal Connection

Most of the responsibility for local mosquito control statutorily lies with the local health departments.

Municipal Responsibility

Municipalities are responsible for implementing the state public health statutes as they pertain to mosquito control.

Statutory Citation

CGS Sections 22a-45b to 22a-45d, inclusive

Discussion

Certain mosquitoes can harbor and transmit pathogens that cause diseases. Typical mosquito-borne diseases found in Connecticut include Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV).

In order to manage mosquitoes to minimize the risk from these diseases, Connecticut has a Mosquito Management Program (CT MMP), which is a multi-agency effort including the CT DEP, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the University of Connecticut. During the mosquito season, the CT MMP collects samples of the state's mosquito population (both adults and larvae, which are an immature stage of mosquito development), and tests for the presence of EEE and WNV.

As part of its role in the CT MMP, the CT DEP actively manages mosquitoes using two general approaches: 1) the widespread use of biological controls; and 2) the judicious use of

insecticides. Biological controls involve using the natural predators of mosquitoes and most frequently include water management techniques in mosquito breeding areas. These techniques improve access to the mosquito-breeding sites for fish that consume mosquito larvae and pupae (another sub-adult development stage of mosquitoes). Biological control provides more permanent mosquito management than chemical insecticides; however, when biological controls are inappropriate or insufficient, select insecticides are judiciously applied. Insecticides used for mosquito management are grouped into two categories: 1) larvicides, used to control immature (larval) mosquitoes in aquatic habitats, and 2) adulticides, used to control adult mosquitoes. The insecticides used by the CT DEP are safe for the environment and do not pose any adverse threat when used in accordance with label instructions.

A number of other products on the market claim to have mosquito control capabilities. In most cases, these products have not been rigorously tested and do not perform as advertised. Mechanical traps such as ultraviolet "bug zappers" or devices that repel using ultrasonic sound waves, do not meet advertiser claims. In fact, bug zappers attract few mosquitoes and may actually kill beneficial insect predators so they should not be used for mosquito reduction. Natural predators, such as bats and certain bird species, including purple martins, eat mosquitoes. Although mosquitoes make up only a small portion of these predators' diets, bats and purple martins can reduce the severity of an infestation.

The CT DEP Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management Program provides technical assistance to municipalities regarding mosquito habitat and control options using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) alternatives (see the fact sheet on *Landscape and Lawn Care* under Public Works for more on IPM).

Mosquito Management and Control

Potential CT DEP Permits, Registrations and/or Certifications

Applicators must be licensed by the CT DEP to apply pesticides.

CT DEP pesticide permits may be needed, depending upon the mosquito control product/s to be used.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is not available at this time (6/2008).

Model Regulations for Municipal Consideration

No.

Web Pages

www.ct.gov/mosquito

www.ct.gov/dep/pesticides

Contact

Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management Program
Franklin Wildlife Management Area
391 Route 32
North Franklin, CT 06254
Phone: 860-642-7630



Description

The CT DEP's Potable Water Program ensures that safe drinking water is available to private and public well owners whose drinking water supply is polluted by human activities.

Municipal Connection

Sometimes human activities can lead to contamination of drinking water supplies. When this occurs, the individual, or the city or town, can turn to the CT DEP for help. If possible, the CT DEP will identify the party or parties responsible for the contamination and secure from them an alternate drinking water supply. If a party responsible for the contamination cannot be identified, or if the responsible party does not have the resources to provide an alternate water supply, the CT DEP may negotiate a consent order with the municipality to ensure an alternate, safe drinking water supply.

Municipal Responsibility

In instances where the responsible party can be identified and has the resources to ensure an alternate drinking water supply, the municipality has no specific responsibilities under this program. Otherwise, the CT DEP may negotiate a consent order with the municipality to ensure an alternate, safe drinking water supply.

Statutory Citation

CGS Section 22a-471

Discussion

Leaking underground fuel oil or gasoline tanks, improper handling or disposal of industrial and commercial chemicals, misapplication of fertilizers and pesticides, road-salting activities, site-grading activities (including blasting and the handling and storage of earth material), and other human actions can result in contaminated drinking water supplies. Any person whose well water is affected by a pollution source other than

naturally occurring substances may seek help through the CT DEP's Potable Water Program.

CT DEP staff works closely with local health authorities, environmental consultants and the CT Department of Public Health staff to conduct well water sampling and site assessments, and communicate technical and public health information to residents affected by pollution of well water. This coordinated effort provides a comprehensive approach to solving potable water problems.

When a responsible party causing the pollution cannot be identified, the Potable Water Program will provide affected residents with a short-term supply of drinking water (i.e., bottled water and/or water treatment system). The Potable Water Program will work with the municipality to arrange for an engineering report that investigates the situation and provides recommendations and alternatives for the long-term provision of potable water. Such report is generally funded through a CT DEP grant to the municipality where the pollution has occurred.

All other public drinking water issues are managed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section.

Potential CT DEP Permits, Registrations and/or Certifications

This is not a CT DEP regulatory program so there are no permits or certifications specific to this program.

Financial Assistance

The CT DEP provides grants to municipalities to provide potable water when necessary. See www.ct.gov/dep/financialassistance. Select "Site Clean-up" then select "Regulations for (potable water) Grants to Municipalities"

Model Regulations for Municipal Consideration

No.

Potable Water Program

Web Page

www.ct.gov/dep/remediation Look for the link to “Potable Water Program.”

Contact

Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Remediation Division
Potable Water Program
Phone: 860-424-3705

