



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

ROBERT W. SPEAR
COMMISSIONER
ROBERT I. BATTEESE, JR.
DIRECTOR

What Municipalities Need to Know About Pesticide Applicator Licensing for Mosquito Control

In light of the concerns about West Nile Virus in Maine and the potential pressure that may be placed on municipalities to take action against mosquitoes, the Board of Pesticides Control (**BPC**) reminds municipal officials about the rules controlling the application of pesticides by government officials.

Municipal employees must be licensed for any use of a pesticide as part of their official duties and may only apply pesticides to municipal properties. Municipal entities needing licenses include Municipal and Quasi-municipal organizations like Parks and Recreation Departments, Public Works, Cemetery Maintenance, Water & Sewer Districts, Housing Authorities, etc. The Board believes that government personnel compliance with higher standards sets the example for other professionals.

The Board also requires licensing whenever pesticides are applied in areas open to the public. These areas could include parks, campgrounds, apartment or condominium grounds, common areas of apartment buildings and many other areas. If a municipality hires an outside company to do pest control, that municipality must be sure the applicator company has the appropriate licenses. We recommend obtaining proof of licensure even before entertaining a bid from an outside pest control company.

Pesticides covered by these rules include insecticides to kill mosquito larvae like *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis* (Bti) and temephos, insecticides to kill adult mosquitoes like malathion, naled and the pyrethroids and any other pest control products both organic and synthetic.

Pesticide applicator licenses are required to handle and apply even the over-the-counter product varieties --like mosquito dunks-- by government employees or in public areas because of the greater potential for public exposure and the added liabilities resulting from that use.

Municipalities that use any pesticide products or plan to use them in the future, should refer to the certification and licensing table on the opposite side of this fact sheet for guidance on how to become licensed.

Additional questions about the licensing requirements or requests for a list of local licensed mosquito control companies, can be referred to Gary Fish at 207-287-7545, e-mail gary.fish@maine.gov or go to the **BPC** web site at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org.

We want to hear about your specific situation; together we can determine what actions must be taken without threat of enforcement.