



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING SCOURGE AND GROUND BASED MOSQUITO ADULTICIDING

## **What is Scourge?**

Scourge is a resmethrin and piperonyl butoxide based pesticide product that is used to control mosquitoes in outdoor residential and recreational areas. Other pesticide products containing these ingredients are used indoors and on pets to control insects such as fleas, ticks and ants.

## **How will the pesticide be applied and how much?**

Scourge is applied as an ultra-low volume mist from equipment mounted on trucks. The concentration of active ingredient is less than 1/10 of an ounce per acre. The mist produced by the ULV equipment is clear to white in color and is very fine with droplet size of 10-15 microns (pollen is 53 microns).

## **Is Scourge harmful to my health?**

Since Scourge is applied at very low concentrations, it is unlikely that adverse health effects will occur as a result of its use to control mosquitoes. Nevertheless, some individuals may experience health effects due to short-term exposure to the very low levels of Scourge used to control mosquitoes. For these reasons, individuals should take common sense steps to minimize their exposure to Scourge when it is applied to control mosquitoes.

## **What can I do to reduce my exposure to the insecticide?**

The chance of experiencing any health effects from the use of Scourge to control mosquitoes is quite low. The Scourge label does not list any specific precautions to take such as staying indoors, etc. It is recommended for use at campsites, athletic fields, residential areas, golf courses, and parks.

The EPA does not require relocating or taking special precautions during mosquito control spraying, however, people may prefer to avoid or minimize exposure by staying indoors; keeping windows closed; turning off room air conditioners and window fans during spraying; keeping children's toys indoors; and keeping pets, their food, water dishes and toys indoors.

Since the effects of the ground and aerial spraying dissipate in a few hours, it is not necessary to wash off outdoor furniture or playground equipment before use, although doing so will not diminish the effectiveness of the pesticide applied.

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*For more information contact:*

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### **Can the spraying affect pregnancy?**

Neither resmethrin nor piperonyl butoxide are likely to affect pregnancy outcomes in people as a result of spraying. Although some effects occurred in laboratory animals that were given large amounts of either resmethrin or piperonyl butoxide, these amounts far exceeded the amounts that individuals are likely to contact from the spraying with Scourge.

### **Should I be concerned about cancer because of the spraying program?**

Available information suggests that Scourge is not likely to cause cancer if people are exposed during or following the spraying program. Resmethrin did not cause cancer in rats or mice given large doses for their entire lifetime, and so is considered unlikely to cause cancer in humans. All available information indicates that piperonyl butoxide is unlikely to cause cancer in humans as a result of its use to control mosquitoes.

### **Can pets go outside during the spraying?**

As mentioned previously, products containing resmethrin and piperonyl butoxide can be applied directly on pets to control ticks and fleas; therefore, there is no need to keep pets indoors. However, if you are concerned, keep them inside during the spraying.

### **Should I be concerned about the fish in my outdoor fishpond?**

Scourge is considered to be toxic to fish. However, considering the low application rate and the fact that resmethrin degrades rapidly in sunlight and water, fish populations should not be adversely affected. To minimize exposure, fishponds can be covered with a tarp or the fish brought indoors.

### **Should I be concerned about my private swimming pool?**

Scourge breaks down fairly quickly in water and in sunlight. You could cover your pool before the spraying occurs; however, given the small concentrations of Scourge being sprayed, no special precautions or waiting periods are recommended for swimming pools.

### **Does Scourge pose a risk to wildlife or the environment?**

Resmethrin used in mosquito control programs does not pose unreasonable risk to wildlife or the environment. Resmethrin is very low in toxicity to animals and practically non-toxic to birds. These chemicals break down rapidly in the environment and high temperatures and sunlight accelerate this process. However resmethrin is potentially toxic to fish. For this reason the EPA has established specific precautions on the label to reduce such risks including restrictions that prohibit the direct application of products to open water.

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

The Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission, as the licensed and certified pesticide applicator, can be reached at (732) 542-3630.