

<<Jurisdiction Name>>
<<Jurisdiction Street Address>>
<<Jurisdiction City, State, ZIP Code>>
<<Jurisdiction Phone Number>>

<<Current Date>>

Director
South Carolina Emergency Management Division
2779 Fish Hatchery Rd
West Columbia, SC 29172

Dear <<Director>>:

Since the flood event that caused so much devastation in South Carolina, there has been a rapid and significant increase in the mosquito population in <<Jurisdiction Name>>. No prior seasons compare to what is occurring in <<Jurisdiction Name>> currently.

Background

<<Hurricane Name>> made landfall as a Category <<#>> storm near <<city>>, SC. <<City>>, SC, reported a peak wind gust of <<#>> mph at landfall. <<Hurricane Name>> made landfall during the highest lunar tide of the year, with a storm surge of at least <<#>> feet in SC. So far this month, we have received <<number of inches>> inches of rain. The ensuing fallen trees, other vegetative/woody debris, clogged stormwater drainage systems, and additional flooding created surplus mosquito breeding sites throughout the county. These conditions produced a noteworthy proliferation among various nuisance and vector mosquitoes within <<#>> weeks.

Describe (1) extent, amount, and type of flooding (e.g., saltwater/freshwater and coastal/inland) [compare the amount of rainfall to the 3-year average rainfall received at the same time of year and location as the event; (2) extent, location, and anticipated duration of power interruption; (3) extent and location of damage to housing; (4) anticipated extent and duration of cleanup and recovery operations.

Proclaim any declarations that were made (state of emergency, public health emergency, or disaster declaration) by the President, Governor, Mayor, or County/City Council for a specific area and the date on which the declaration was made.

Insecticide Applications

For insecticide applications, provide (1) documentation of the chemical, application method, and concentration used; (2) adulticide or larvicide area maps detailing the zones affected/treated; (3) date(s) of the insecticide application, and (4) cost for pesticides (including labor costs) compared to the average cost of pesticides in the 3 years prior for the same location and time frame.

WRITING TIPS

- Use official letterhead.
- Provide scientifically backed details about specific areas that have been impacted by the disaster. A general statement about county-wide flooding and mosquito problems will not suffice.
- Avoid “weasel words”, words or statements that are intentionally ambiguous or misleading. Weasel words and phrases include *may, might, could, can, can be, virtually, up to, as much as, help, like, believe, possibly, probably, most, generally*, and similar qualifiers that create unsupported claims in a statement. Quantify your statements by using specific numbers or percentages instead of vague quantities.
- Compare current data to 3-year average pre-storm data for the same location and time frame. If 3-year data are not available, then the jurisdiction must document mosquito population density before and after treatment by using landing rate counts, mosquito trap counts, or numbers and origins of mosquito complaint calls.

Example statement:

Our 3-year average cost for pesticides (larvicides & adulticides) was \$<<dollar amount>> compared to our pesticide cost of \$<<dollar amount>> used so far this month. These costs <<do/do not>> include labor costs required to disperse the products. <<If labor costs are not included, please include the total labor cost here>>.

Biting Mosquito Populations

Estimate pre- and post-storm mosquito population density by using larval dip data, landing rate counts, mosquito trap counts, or numbers and origins of mosquito complaint calls. Include location of surveillance data, trap type, and species composition by describing at least the topmost abundant species collected. Compare post-storm species composition and mosquito population density with the average numbers collected during the 3 prior mosquito seasons for the same location and time frame. Be specific with percentage increases and highlight changes in increased biting species that might have hampered recovery efforts or vector species that might have caused a public health threat.

Example statements:

Our spray requests averaged <<number of spray requests>> for the past 3 years. So far this month, we have already received well over <<number of spray requests>> requests.

Our highest number of female mosquitoes captured in a <<name of trap type>> on a single night in <<month>> was <<number of mosquitoes>> in <<year>>. This month, our highest single trap catch in one night is <<number of mosquitoes>>. This number, however, does not provide a good representation of the presence of *Psorophora* species overall since they are not as attracted to light traps.

We <<do/do not>> track Landing Rate Counts (LRC). Our LRC before the mosquito hatch-off from the flooding was <<number of mosquitoes per minute>> per minute. After the hatch-off, the LRC is now <<number of mosquitoes per minute>> per minute. <<List species of mosquitoes found while performing the LRC if known>>.

Mosquito-Borne Disease Activity

Describe the potential for disease transmission based on the detection of mosquito-borne diseases prior to the storm event and/or the detection of mosquito-borne diseases in the previous 3 years for the same location and time frame. Evidence of mosquito-borne disease transmission events can include infection rates in mosquitoes, seroconversion in sentinel chickens, equine cases, or human cases. Be sure to include the location of surveillance activities. If you are claiming that more disease-carrying mosquitoes are present, you must obtain a written letter from a state, territorial, tribal, or local government public health official who can validate that a mosquito population poses a specific health threat. If you are claiming increased secondary infections due to mosquito bites, you must obtain a letter from medical facilities verifying that increased mosquito bites directly resulted in secondary infections.

Summary

The above information provides evidence of <<higher levels of disease-transmitting mosquitos/increased biting mosquitoes hamper response and recovery efforts/increased mosquito-related infections in the public>>. To abate the threat to public health posed by the increased mosquito population in <<Jurisdiction Name>>, we used <<aerial spraying, ground spraying, etc.>> over <<number of acres>> acres method to eliminate the threat to public health caused by the increased mosquito population. The estimated treatment cost of \$<<dollar amount>> is based on <<_____>>.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title