



# *FACT SHEET*

August 2013

## **SCOURGE**

### **What is Scourge?**

Scourge is a pesticide product used to control mosquitoes in outdoor residential and recreational areas. It contains resmethrin and piperonyl butoxide. Resmethrin is a man-made pesticide but is very similar to a natural group of pesticides called pyrethrins that come from plants. Piperonyl butoxide does not directly kill insects but acts to increase the ability of resmethrin to kill insects. These pesticide products are also used in pet shampoos, sprays and in products used in horse stables.

### **When will Scourge be used to control mosquitoes?**

The use of Scourge is only part of a mosquito management program that includes larval control and reduction of mosquito breeding habitats. When the risk of human exposure to West Nile virus is high; the application of Scourge, either by ground or air, may be the only alternative to reduce populations of infected adult mosquitoes. Decisions to use Scourge will be considered carefully.

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

Since Scourge is being applied at very low concentration rates, it is unlikely that anyone will experience health effects as a result of contact with Scourge. Animal studies indicate that Scourge is unlikely to be a risk for cancer, endocrine disruption, birth defects or damage to internal organs. It is also not very irritating to the skin or eyes.

The effects of exposure to any chemical depend primarily on the amount of the chemical a person is exposed to (through skin contact, ingestion or inhalation) and the amount of time that the person is exposed to the chemical. The person's age, sex, genetics, life style and general health may also influence the possible health effects.

Decreasing the amount of exposure to pesticides is always prudent, especially with respect to young children.

### **Are some people at greater risk of experiencing symptoms after they have been in contact with Scourge?**

Most people would not be expected to experience any symptoms. However, there could be some individuals who are particularly sensitive to chemicals including those found in Scourge. These sensitive individuals could experience short-term, reversible effects such as eye, skin, nose or throat irritation or breathing problems. These are less likely to occur if practical and simple things are done to minimize contact with the pesticide. Steps to reduce exposure are outlined below.

- Look for notices about spraying in the newspapers and stay tuned to radio and TV for announcements.
- Whenever possible, remain indoors with windows closed and air conditioning turned off when spraying is taking place.
- If you have to remain outdoors, avoid eye contact with the spray. If you get pesticide spray in your eyes, immediately rinse them with water or eye drops.
- Bring laundry and toys indoors before spraying begins. Wash with soap and water if exposed to pesticides during spraying.
- Bring your pets indoors, and cover ornamental fish ponds to avoid direct exposure.
- Cover outdoor tables and play equipment or rinse them off with water after spraying is finished.
- Cover swimming pool surfaces when it is feasible (given the small concentrations of Scourge being used, no special precautions or waiting periods are recommended for swimming pools).
- Wash exposed skin surfaces with soap and water if you come in contact with pesticides.
- Wash any exposed fruits and vegetables with water before storing, cooking or eating.
- Do not allow children to play in areas that are still wet from the pesticide spraying.
- There is no need to relocate during spraying, but consult your physician if you have specific medical concerns regarding the spraying.

### **What happens to Scourge in the environment?**

Scourge spray stays in the air for a very short period of time until droplets land on surfaces. Scourge breaks down or degrades quickly in sunlight. Rain washes away any remaining Scourge. Scourge can remain in soil for several weeks until it is broken down by bacteria. It is unlikely that residues on grass or soil could be a health concern after an aerial spray for mosquito control. Follow the precautions above to further ensure safety during and after a spray event.

### **What should I do if I have medical questions about Scourge?**

- If you suspect that you or your child are reacting to Scourge, call your physician. If you feel that it is an emergency, call 911 or your local emergency service.
- You and your doctor can get specific medical information about the active ingredients in pesticides by calling the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at 1-800-858-7378. Information can also be obtained from the Connecticut Poison Control Center, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-343-2722.

If you have any additional questions about Scourge and health, call the Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program at 860-509-7740.

If you have questions regarding mosquito management call the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at (860) 642-7630 or the local health department in your town.



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