



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Mosquito Control ‘SWEEP’ Set to Begin Monday, October 2

A focused, multi-week, FKMCD effort to eliminate and treat habitats for potentially disease-spreading mosquitoes kicks off Monday morning, October 2nd in Key West.

This ‘Sweep’, traditionally held in early October, will feature trained FKMCD inspectors from across Monroe County converging in metropolitan Key West in a concerted effort to visit every residential and commercial property in search of standing water.

Officials with the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District are encouraging residents and property owners to consent to the brief inspection that will help identify and eliminate potential habitats that can often remain hidden and unknowingly produce *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes which can vector serious illnesses such as Dengue Fever and Zika. Habitats include tires, birdbaths, buckets, bromeliads, and any other items that can accumulate water.

FKMCD Executive Director Andrea Leal said:

“Protecting public health is the District’s number one concern, especially with the influx of visitors to Key West in the month of October. Source reduction in cooperation with community involvement is one of FKMCD’s most effective weapons, so we strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.”

The Key West ‘Sweep’ traditionally lasts about three weeks.

If an FKMCD inspector visits a property while no one is home, a door hanger will be left containing simple instructions for scheduling a more convenient time for the on-site visit.

FKMCD currently employs 36 trained inspectors across Monroe County. As part of the sweep many of them will be temporarily re-deployed in Key West at various times. All of the inspectors will travel in marked vehicles and wear appropriate FKMCD clothing.

About the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

The mission of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is to control the mosquito population using the most effective methods, techniques, equipment and insecticides; thus enhancing the quality of life for all residents and reducing the possibility of mosquito transmitted diseases.

Follow FKMCD on Twitter at [@FlKeysMosquito](https://twitter.com/FlKeysMosquito) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FlKeysMosquito). For more information about the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, please visit www.keysmosquito.org.

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