



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FKMCD TO UTILIZE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FOR AERIAL TREATMENTS

**May 2, 2019** – Starting next week the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) will begin utilizing an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) for aerial larviciding in remote locations. FKMCD has been effectively using this advancing technology for surveillance of remote mosquito production sites for the past several years.

The District's UAS will be able to cover approximately an acre at a time with granular larvicide and will be used in areas that are difficult to treat via hand or helicopter. Initially, FKMCD will begin these prescribed treatments of remote sites in the Key Largo area. All operators of the UAS are Federal Aviation Administration Certified Remote Pilots and are licensed Aerial Pesticide Applicators.

"We are really looking forward to integrating this treatment method into our operations," said FKMCD Executive Director Andrea Leal. "These UAS applications will increase our efficiency of treating these small, difficult to reach areas."

As with any other aerial granular larvicide treatment, notifications of these missions will be on social media (Facebook & Twitter) as well as on the FKMCD notification app for smartphones. The larvicide being used is a granular form of *Bti*, a naturally occurring bacteria that only has an effect on mosquito and black-fly larvae.

If you have questions about the District's use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, please contact us at [questions@keysmosquito.org](mailto:questions@keysmosquito.org) or 305-292-7190.

\*Photo credit: Bruce Stevens, FKMCD Inspector and FAA Certified Remote Pilot

### **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 [@FIKeysMosquito](https://twitter.com/FIKeysMosquito) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FIKeysMosquito). For more information about the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District and to download our smartphone app, please visit [www.keysmosquito.org](http://www.keysmosquito.org).

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