



CIRSA HAZARD ALERT

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SAFER TOGETHER

Mosquito-Borne Diseases

For some workers, mosquitoes are an on-the-job hazard. Mosquito-borne diseases are those spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Diseases that are spread to people by mosquitoes include Zika virus, West Nile virus, Chikungunya virus, Dengue, and Malaria. Mosquitoes do not transmit the virus COVID-19. This virus is transmitted directly from person to person.

Workers at Risk

Different species of mosquitoes are found throughout the world and spread various diseases. The risk to workers varies with location in which they are working type of habitat at the work site, season, and time of day.

Workers at risk include:

- Outdoor workers
- Business travelers
- Healthcare workers who may handle patients who are infected with certain mosquito-borne diseases. Transmission may occur through a break in their skin or via a penetration injury.

Some mosquitoes lay eggs in or near standing water; to reduce the spread of mosquitos at worksites:

- Remove or store equipment so that it does not collect water. Place drain holes in containers that collect water if they cannot be discarded.
- Remove debris from ditches.
- Fill in ruts and other areas that collect standing water.
- Remove tires, buckets, bottles, and barrels that collect water.

Worksite Recommendations

Provide training on:

- The risk of mosquito bites and how to prevent them
- Symptoms of mosquito-borne diseases:
 - Examples of mosquito-borne disease symptoms can be found on the CDC/NIOSH website
- The safe use of insect repellents
 - EPA has a list of registered insect repellents
 - Find the right insect repellent by using EPA's Search Tool

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Mosquito-Borne Diseases (cont.)

Keep mosquitoes outside by ensuring that doors and windows have screens and are kept closed when possible.

Provide workers with, and encourage them to wear, clothing that covers their hands, arms, legs, and other exposed skin. Consider providing hats with mosquito netting to protect the face and neck.

Permethrin can be applied to clothing and gear for additional protection.

Workers who develop symptoms of mosquito-borne disease should report this promptly to their supervisor and get medical attention.