



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Emergency Management

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STATEWIDE MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES CONTRACT

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PURPOSE OF CONTRACT

Why do we have a pre-positioned statewide contract in North Carolina for mosquito control?

This contract was procured by NC Department of Public Safety (NC DPS) to serve as a convenient response tool for local governments, counties, tribal nations and state agencies to lessen local operational and logistical burdens to rectify public health and safety issues as quickly as possible.

What is the contract intended to do?

To quickly help local governments, counties, tribal nations and state agencies respond to potential mosquito-borne public health and safety or disease events. Also, to provide activating authorities the response tools needed to remain in compliance with federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies using a vendor with the necessary experience and technology.

Where and who is this contract intended to serve?

Clarke is positioned throughout the State of North Carolina to serve as a “one-stop shop” providing technical support, community outreach, local testing, trapping, abatement and other related services to protect the health and safety of human populations in response to local, regional or large-scale disaster events that could or will involve mosquitoes.

This contract is not intended for general mosquito control or to supplement local issues or gaps regarding mosquito populations.

What is Clarke’s experience?

Clarke provided complete responses and documentation supporting their experience with local, regional and statewide mosquito control operations for other states and federal agencies. Clarke outlined significant experience in mosquito control operations and in navigating regarding state, federal and local laws, regulations, ordinances, policies, permits, licenses and operations related to local, regional and large-scale disasters.

Clarke additionally met the requirement in regard to experience and systems for capturing and transferring required supporting data and documentation to support an activating authority’s expense reimbursements and validating state or federal disaster declarations as warranted.

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[Please see contract for more information.](#)

CONTRACT SERVICES

What is Clarke allowed to do if there is a mosquito event?

The services Clarke may provide must be directly related to necessary response actions taken to protect human life, health and safety after a disaster event. According to the terms of the contract, Clarke may provide the following (*not a comprehensive list*):

- Aerial mosquito abatement with ultra-low volume (ULV) spray systems
- Ground mosquito abatement using truck, ATV and backpack/handheld methods
- Local testing and trapping/surveillance
- Mapping/GIS services and reporting
- Technical assistance
- Identification of the area's mosquito species and recommended application methods
- Homeowner engagement and public relations
- Barrier protection
- Cost justification and documentation

As defined in the contract, the services for this statewide contract are intended to reduce or eradicate the risk of mosquito-borne illness in human populations around the State of North Carolina. Most likely a severe weather event, man-made event, or standalone mosquito event will trigger activation of the contract.

NOTE: Private businesses - including farming, livestock or other agricultural operations - and other for-profit and nonprofit businesses are not considered activating authorities and will not be eligible to use the contract.

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CONTRACT ACTIVATION

Who can activate this contract?

Activating authorities are defined as local governments, counties, tribal nations and state agencies throughout North Carolina for purposes of this contract.

What is a local government in North Carolina?

Local governments include cities, towns and incorporated villages and other types of units of government defined in NC state law at [NC GS 160A](#).

Who do I need to call if I am an activating authority and need to activate this contract?

Activating authorities should be in touch with Clarke directly and discuss the situation to receive guidance and next steps.

Which person with an activating authority can activate this contract if needed?

That person needs to be an authorized representative for the local government, county, tribal nation or state agency. This person is usually a senior manager or official who has the documented authority to sign legal documents, including contracts.

How long will it take for Clarke to start their operations at the point the contract is activated?

Clarke has stated in the contract that the time from activation to services deployment will be no longer than 72 hours.

How much land area is required to activate the contract? Is there a minimum?

Aerial and ground operations spray area minimums, application methods, operational processes, logistical positioning, pesticides used, licenses and other details are [defined in the contract](#) and should be discussed directly with Clarke due to varying situations.

Activation triggers should also be discussed directly with Clarke on a case-by-case basis.

Aerial limits to consider before activation:

- 5,000 acres for aerial **adulticiding**
- 3,000 acres for aerial **larviciding**

Can a local government, county, tribal nation or state agency use the contract any time they choose for any reason?

No.

This contract is intended for the eradication of mosquitoes that impact the health and safety of human populations and include:

- 1) A severe weather, man-made or other type of event that has created an environment for mosquitoes to thrive causing threats to public health and safety

and/or

- 2) An imminent or existing mosquito-borne infectious disease event including La Crosse encephalitis (LAC), West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Zika, or other mosquito-borne diseases.

This contract is **not** intended for general mosquito control, eradication of nuisance mosquitoes, or to supplement local mosquito program/vector control gaps or needs locally.

***Please note:** Private businesses, including farming or livestock operations and other agricultural operations, and other for-profit and private nonprofit businesses are not activating authorities per the terms of this contract.*

How long is this contract in place?

This contract is presently in effect and has a term of three years, beginning on August 23, 2021. This contract will terminate on August 22, 2024.

When should I contact Clarke?

When there is an immediate need to respond to mosquitoes in areas where the health and safety of human populations in North Carolina are impacted. If mosquito-borne disease indicators are increasing, and/or a large storm is approaching, pre-activation conversations with Clarke are recommended to discuss mapping, baseline mosquito collections, and other preparatory work. Otherwise, contact Clarke as soon as possible after the health and safety of human populations in North Carolina are impacted.

Who should I talk with about this contract and questions I have about services, operations or logistics?

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COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENT

**Please note that reimbursement for any costs related to this contract by either the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) or the State of North Carolina per [NC GS 166A](#) will only be available if a federal or state disaster declaration is in place.*

How does a local government get state funding for a mosquito event?

Activating authorities must have costs directly related to mitigating or eliminating health and safety impacts caused by mosquitoes. These health and safety impacts may be caused by a severe weather event (hurricane, flood, or similar), a man-made event, or a stand-alone mosquito-borne disease event that creates these health and safety impacts beyond the scope of what is termed *nuisance mosquitoes*.

For reimbursement to be considered using State of North Carolina emergency (disaster) recovery funds, an activating authority must exceed 1% of its general operating budget or \$10,000, whichever is higher. Additional requirements that need to be in place for state disaster funding include:

- 1) having an approved hazard mitigation plan in place, and
- 2) participation in the National Flood Insurance Program

Reference: [State law for emergency disaster relief funds](#)

How does a local government find out if they have met a cost threshold for cost reimbursement?

If local government authorities have determined that the costs for mosquito abatement services has exceeded the threshold for their area, please contact your local emergency manager and notify them of your costs. Also contact the NCEM Recovery – Public Assistance section so they can be informed and work with your local officials and EM to validate costs and eligibility for state or federal disaster declarations.

What happens to the invoices, permits, details about areas sprayed or other data that Clarke captures to support their invoices and our costs?

Clarke will transfer all supporting cost documentation and other related information to the activating authority whether or not a state or federal declaration is put in place. If there is a state or federal disaster declaration, that information will transfer from you to NCEM to support cost reimbursement by the state or FEMA.

If documented costs are justified as having met state or federal damage cost thresholds, NCEM will review the documentation provided by Clarke and the activating authority. Clarke will assist in this justification process for activating authorities who meet state or federal disaster cost thresholds.

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What does FEMA pay for when local mosquitoes cause likely health issues?

If a federal declaration is put in place, FEMA will pay for category B work – or emergency protective measures – but does not necessarily pay for all mosquito abatement costs. FEMA only provides PA funding for the increased cost of mosquito abatement activities.

An increased cost is defined as the amount that exceeds the average amount of typical abatement costs based on the last three (3) years of expenses for the same period. In other words, the costs must clearly be above and beyond normal operating costs for these services on average. If you do not have average costs to provide as documentation, please work with Clarke to see if your situation allows for other extenuating factors to be considered.

Also, to be eligible for [FEMA Public Assistance \(PA\) funding](#), insecticide formulations and methods must:

- be among those approved and registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use for mosquito control
- must be applied according to label directions and precautions by appropriately trained and certified applicators
- comply with all Federal, State, Territorial, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations concerning vector control

What kind of disaster declaration is needed for local cost reimbursement?

- ✓ Reimbursement to a local government or a county: A local government or county will not be reimbursed without a state or federal (FEMA) declaration
- ✓ Reimbursement to a tribal nation: A tribal nation will not be reimbursed without a state or federal declaration.
- ✓ Reimbursement to a state agency: A state agency will not be reimbursed without a federal declaration.

Is there a cost share if there is a state or federal disaster declaration?

- ***If a federal declaration,*** FEMA pays a minimum of 75 % of the eligible costs while the state or local government pays the remaining 25%. Historically, the state has paid the remaining cost share in North Carolina and continues to fund that remaining cost share for future events.
- ***If a state disaster declaration,*** the state pays 75% of the costs, and the remaining cost share is paid by the authorizing authority (local government, county, tribal nation or state agency).

If local government officials and their emergency managers determine that the costs have exceeded local financial capacity and are able to demonstrate this, those officials and/or EM's should be in touch with NCEM's [Public Assistance team](#) regarding state or federal declarations.

Who is responsible for getting the costs reimbursed if there is a disaster declaration?

If a state or federal disaster declaration occurs, it is the activating authority that will serve as the responsible organization (or subrecipient) of disaster recovery funds.

The activating authority will work with NCEM Recovery's Public Assistance team and Clarke will transfer the documentation required to support cost reimbursement of state or federal funds to the activating authority for them to provide to NCEM.

If NCEM (or FEMA) have any questions about the mosquito abatement activities, Clarke will continue to work with the activating authority and NCEM (and FEMA, if applicable) to ensure all eligible work undertaken – and the costs - are properly captured and defined to any request for additional information.

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Who should I contact if I have question about local, tribal or state agency cost reimbursement for emergency protective measures from a local or federally-declared disaster event of any kind?

For general questions about state or federal reimbursement pertaining to weather, man-made, mosquito or other types of events please contact your NCEM PA Grants Manager with the NCEM Recovery Public Assistance team.

- State threshold: [NC State Law for Emergency Measures](#)
- Federal threshold: [FEMA Public Assistance rules for cost thresholds](#)
 - County cost thresholds required for [each individual county](#) in North Carolina for that county to participate in federal event involving FEMA Public Assistance (PA)
 - Current [FEMA PA project minimums](#) if a federal declaration is in place for a county

How do I know if my local government will get reimbursed if I activate the contract?

Clarke will work with you on cost reimbursement questions, and was onboarded by the state in part due to their experience with the FEMA public assistance (PA) program in other states.

If it has been determined by local officials that costs have exceeded an activating authorities' financial capacity, NCEM Recovery's Public Assistance leadership team will work with the activating authority to validate those costs to support the funding requested for reimbursement.

NCEM serves as the agency who manages the funds and provides technical support (grantee) for State of North Carolina disaster recovery funds and FEMA Public Assistance (PA) funds.

Please be in touch with NCEM Recovery's Public Assistance team if you have questions about these thresholds. If you believe you have exceeded the threshold for a state or federal declaration, you should be in touch with your local emergency manager as well as the [NCEM PA team](#).

Clarke will work with you to assist in the cost verification process and will provide the data that supports an activating authority's participation in either a state or federal verification.

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What is eligible for cost reimbursement if there is a state or federal disaster declaration^[DMS1]?

For state and federal disaster events, emergency protective measures, or category B work, is typically reimbursed provided the applicant for the funds is determined eligible.

These costs generally include equipment, labor hours, inventoried materials and other expense-generating purchases, contracts, items or activities that are taken to mitigate issues pertaining to public health and safety. These costs may be eligible as long as those measures are directly attributable to:

- mosquitoes
- **and**
- a threat to public health and safety, including imminent or actual disease to humans

[NCEM Recovery's Public Assistance team](#) works directly with local governments, counties, tribal nations and state agencies and will assist throughout the process with project development and eligible costs, and will manage the cost reimbursement process after a declared disaster event.

What happens if the costs do not exceed local financial ability for a state or federal disaster declaration?

As with any other emergency activities that protect life, health and safety, the activating authority is responsible for those costs unless costs are shown to have exceeded local financial capacity.

How does a local government, county, tribal nation or state agency justify the expenses related to mosquito control needs from a flood?

Clarke will help the local government understand if their services will be considered for reimbursement. NCEM Recovery will also help the activating authorities understand the state and federal rules and work to assist in validating costs by providing specifics on what it takes to justify eligibility and expenses.

Documentation for any disaster event should always clearly define the reasons certain actions were taken and the expenses that were incurred due to those actions.

What sort of documentation will Clarke provide for disaster funding related to mosquito abatement activities?

Documentation of mosquito control service costs must clearly define reasoning behind the services performed and can be extensive. This will include:

- the demonstrated need to control mosquito populations that may impact human health and safety, including:
 - Test results
 - Trap counts
- all activities undertaken to suppress these mosquitoes, including:
 - Chemicals used
 - Equipment used
 - Spray methods used
 - Environmental considerations taken
 - Work performed
 - Adherence to no-spray zones
 - Narrative on the human population affected
 - Labor deployed
 - Invoices and other evidence of eligibility and costs

Clarke, along with NCEM's Recovery section, will assist local governments, counties, tribal nations and state agencies with the cost reimbursement validation process to determine whether a state or federal disaster declaration is likely. You should also be in touch with [NCEM's Public Assistance team](#) regarding state and federal thresholds.

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What is the cost threshold for the State of North Carolina that is required to request FEMA's federal assistance?

For FEMA Public Assistance, every county has its own threshold predetermined by the federal government. It is the total of all reported damages for each eligible applicant that should be counted within any one county for the threshold to be met. It is not just the damages and costs that the county has discovered.

- ✓ **NC Counties – [federal \(FEMA\) thresholds for each county](#)**

For federal disaster declarations, it is critical that each local government, county, tribal nation, and state agency summarize these expenses and provide this summary of costs to their designated emergency manager, who will ensure that their county or tribal nation demonstrates a total county or area cost threshold. If the county cost threshold has been met or exceeds FEMA (federal) threshold requirements

for federal declarations, that county may be included in the state's federal declaration.

When counties or tribal nations have excessive disaster response and facility damage costs, those costs are captured and sent up the emergency management chain to NCEM Recovery, then to NCEM leadership, who reviews those costs for each county and makes a recommendation to the governor's office as to whether the state should request a federal declaration. Any county that has exceeded its own threshold should make those disaster expenses known in order to be included in the federal disaster declaration request.

Who is responsible for general mosquito control that is not due to a disaster?

Vector control decisions are made at the local level. Statewide, several local or regional mosquito control programs (also known as vector control programs) and certain types of sanitary districts have the overarching responsibility to control mosquito populations for their communities. Local governments may also implement vector control when needed if laws and ordinances allow.

NCDA, NC DEQ, NC DHHS and other state agencies and local public health departments have oversight and/or regulatory responsibility over pesticides, environmental regulations and other health and safety laws and policies are adhered to.

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[Please see contract for more information.](#)

MOSQUITO SUPPRESSION METHODS

What methods are used to kill adult mosquitoes?

Adult mosquitoes are killed with “adulticides.” Adulticides are typically sprayed using ultra-low volume (ULV) equipment with rates generally less than 1 oz. per acre. The ULV adulticides can be sprayed from backpacks, truck, helicopters, and airplanes. Post-storm treatments are usually done by truck or aircraft due to the generally large acreage that requires quick treatment.

A second method is called “Barrier Spray Treatments.” Barrier sprays are very good for protecting small areas like homes, parks, baseball fields, and walking paths, especially during disease prevention and response efforts.

What methods are used to kill larval mosquitoes?

Young mosquitoes are killed in the water using “larvicides.” Larvicides come in many forms including liquids, pellets, granules, briquettes, and “dunks.” They can be dispersed by hand, by backpacks, truck, helicopters, and airplanes. Larvicides are not effective in controlling large numbers of mosquitoes after a storm. Larvicides can be effective in specific disease management situations and for management of regular, non-storm mosquito populations.

Will granular pellets or mosquito dunks be used to control high mosquito populations right after a weather event?

No. After a storm it is too late to control mosquitoes when they are larvae in water. The larvae are spread far and wide over the landscape, and it is not possible to map and treat all water before the adult mosquitoes emerge and fly away. After a storm, adulticiding is recommended as the exclusive method of suppression.

Can any pesticide be used with this contract?

No. Only pesticides registered in North Carolina can be used for this contract. A list of registered pesticides and other information regarding pesticides is located on the [NC Dept. of Agriculture’s web site](#).

The NC Department of Agriculture (NCDA) is the governing body that determines which pesticides are registered for mosquito control purposes.

NOTE: Just because a pesticide is registered, this does NOT guarantee that the product will be effective against the species being targeted. Clarke will provide data and information to you regarding which formulation will most effectively suppress a particular species along with equipment to be used, application methods and relevant operational conditions related to weather.

Which pesticide formulations are recommended to be used with this contract?

Several products are priced specifically in this contract, based on the type of machine being used. [Please refer to the contract](#) for more information regarding application methods and formulations.

Which pesticide formulation is best for spraying mosquitoes?

Each pesticide formulation performs better or worse depending on a number of factors, including:

- mosquito species being targeted,
- type of machinery being used (e.g. aircraft, truck, backpack, etc.), and
- weather conditions at time of treatment

Which pesticide formulation is best for spraying when using airplanes?

Products containing the active ingredient “*naled*” are strongly recommended for aerial applications. Currently, products called Dibrom and Trumpet are the only registered aerial products containing naled.

Naled is recommended the product performs well in nearly all wind conditions, is effective against all common mosquito species, and breaks down quickly in the environment.

Which pesticide formulation is best for spraying when using trucks?

Products containing Type II pyrethroids are generally recommended when using truck ULV methods. These are more likely to kill mosquitoes resistant to more common Type I pyrethroids.

In areas where organic farms are present, adulticide formulations meeting National Organic Program (NOP) standards, or listed by the Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI), are recommended.

Are any mosquitoes resistant to commonly used pesticides in NC?

Yes. Many adulticides are not effective against mosquitoes found in NC, especially the species that carry West Nile virus. Clarke will use an effective mosquito abatement method depending upon the situation, species identified, and lifecycle stage and will collaborate with local, state and federal officials on these decisions.

How do we know that the pesticides listed in the contract will be effective?

Some of the listed adulticide products have been used successfully in post-hurricane situations for several decades. For example, adulticides containing “*naled*” have achieved good results after nearly all major hurricanes for at least 30 years. In most cases, adult mosquito counts were reduced by > 90% with a single large treatment of naled by aircraft.

However, every pesticide has its own chemical and physical properties that allow it to be effective under particular weather conditions, used by particular spray equipment, and used against particular species of mosquitoes. Spraying when the target mosquito species is not flying under high wind conditions against a species that is chemically resistant to your adulticide creates disappointing results.

Consult with Clarke if the situation arises and you have questions about which products and methods will be most effective for your situation.

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Will all of the pesticides listed in the contract be effective against all North Carolina mosquito species?

No. Some pesticides are effective against nearly all species but are limited by the type of equipment required (e.g., products containing *naled* are highly effective against nearly all species but is only used with aerial operations). Others can be sprayed using a variety of equipment, but are not effective against some species. This lack of effectiveness can be due to high insecticide resistance levels inside the mosquito, or because the mosquito's behavior allows it to avoid the pesticide altogether.

Does North Carolina test mosquitoes for effectiveness against listed pesticides?

Yes. Universities working with the NC DHHS Communicable Diseases Branch are actively testing insecticide resistance levels in the pesticides listed in the contract - as well as other pesticides - against common disease-transmitting mosquitoes collected throughout the state.

Results thus far have shown that *naled* is effective against all species tested, Type I pyrethroids are effective against the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) and Type II pyrethroids are generally effective against *Culex* species (our primary West Nile virus vector).

SPRAY THRESHOLDS

What is the recommended threshold for post-storm spraying?

Although the state of North Carolina does not have specific requirements for initiating truck or aerial ultra-low volume (ULV) adulticiding, the following are reasonable guidelines:

- When adult mosquito populations are significantly higher than normal for that time of year over a large area (e.g., the average # of mosquitoes per night during that month)
 - Truck ULV -- when mosquito populations reach 2 times (2x) the baseline count over a large area (e.g., > 1 sq. mile)
 - Aerial ULV -- when mosquito populations reach 3 times (3x) the baseline counts over a large area (e.g., > 8 sq. miles)
- When local officials receive significantly higher number of reports of mosquitoes hampering recovery efforts for that time of year, especially when quantifiable data (e.g., landings per minute) come from reliable sources such as local Fire/EMS, law enforcement, etc.
- When larval mosquito populations are widely found in areas not normally flooded other than during storm events
- When larval mosquito populations are found at abnormally high numbers, or abnormally widespread, in normally flooded areas
- When disease indicators suggest a pattern of disease transmission is emerging within the animal or human population (e.g., positive mosquito, positive horse, and/or human samples of mosquito-borne diseases)

Clarke will have these recommendations and will work closely with NC DPH and other local, state and federal agencies.

[Please see contract for more information.](#)

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MOSQUITO CONTROL SPRAYING ACTIVITY

How are GIS maps created for mosquito spraying?

Generalized base GIS maps have been provided to Clarke by various state agencies in case the need to provide mosquito treatment occurs anywhere in North Carolina. After an event, Clarke can provide post-treatment maps specific to types of application methods and for tracking their activities as required for cost reimbursement, if applicable.

Are no-spray zones in place for environmental concerns and public health sensitivities?

Compliance with spray exclusion zones and all environmental laws, regulations and policies is required, and Clarke will work in tandem with NC DEQ, NC DHHS, NCDA, NCEM, local health authorities and other stakeholders when direction and technical support is needed.

No-spray zones are determined for various reasons according to the area and the communities and the local and state agencies who have particular involvement related to issues or activities in those areas, as with NC Fish and Wildlife, NC Natural and Cultural Heritage or NC DEQ's Coastal Management.

In general, bee hives, organic farms, fish farms, and environmentally sensitive areas should be avoided when treating by truck or backpack. Aerial treatments cannot always avoid bee hives and organic farms, although all measures are taken to protect sensitive agricultural and aquaculture interests, including spraying at night.

Resource: NC DA [Driftwatch](#) for Bee Keepers and Organic Farms

Resource: NC Natural and Cultural Heritage [Species search](#) (by county/species/protection status)

Resource: NC Dept. of Agriculture [Pesticides Division](#)

How do no-spray or exclusion zones or environmental rules effect emergency response activities when there is a situation like this?

Local public health and safety, ecological systems, aquaculture and wildlife habitats – as well as state and federal cost reimbursement – are all contingent upon planning and proper, effective mosquito control activities.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) must comment on proposed spray areas, to evaluate impact to environmentally sensitive species and/or habitats, **prior to** the spraying occurring. This is normally accomplished through USFWS reviewing the all feasible spray areas for each county prior to a given storm, then , which would encompass all possible environmental impacts.

State and federal authorities accept that some sensitive areas cannot be avoided during large-scale aerial spray treatments. However, if local authorities do not make reasonable attempts to avoid these areas, FEMA reimbursement amounts may be deemed ineligible or deobligated after the fact.

Spraying a sensitive area containing species susceptible to insecticides (e.g., endangered bird species or fish; endangered plants) may invalidate reimbursements, especially in areas that are avoidable by minor

adjustments to the spray boundaries. However, it may be acceptable to spray a sensitive area in the middle of a very large spray area or it may be acceptable to spray a sensitive area containing species not likely to be affected by the pesticide (e.g., a non-flowering plant).

How does Clarke know which equipment or pesticides to use?

In addition to their internal recommendations, Clarke will consult with the NC Department of Public Health and local health officials to track, report and advise on these species and related disease issues at the local level. Local, state and federal officials will be consulted for guidance if any questions come up.

Clarke has agreed to NC DPH's assessment and recommendation for preferred applications and has noted the proper pesticides and applications in the contract.

[Please see contract for more information.](#)

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DECISION AUTHORITY

Which state agencies are involved with mosquito control activities?

Generally speaking, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ), the NC Department of Agriculture (NCDA) and other state, local, and federal agencies provide technical guidance or regulatory oversight for communicable disease mitigation, pesticide chemical application guidance, no-spray zone mapping, environmental regulations, habitat protection, public safety, permitting and other matters that are all directly related to effective mosquito abatement (vector control) activities around the state.

Who determines what should occur to combat mosquito-borne disease in the state?

At the local level, municipal and county officials have the authority to monitor and respond to mosquito-borne illness and threats to public health and safety.

At the state level, various agencies including the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ), the NC Department of Agriculture (NCDA) and other state, local, and federal agencies all provide guidance and oversight including disease surveillance, pesticide usage, no-spray (or spray exclusion) zones, environmental laws, habitat regulations, permitting, licensing, wildlife considerations and other matters related to mosquito abatement activities.

Who determines if there is local or regional potential for mosquito-borne disease?

Local emergency managers, local public health officials, NC DHHS and other state and local agencies work together to determine the potential for a mosquito disease outbreak. The NC DHHS Division of Public Health's Communicable Disease team also assists with guidance in conjunction with local public health authorities.

Site and trap counts, rapid testing, analysis and reports are common support activities undertaken by NC DPH, local public health authorities and others involved in emergency mosquito abatement activities.

Who at NCEM makes the decision to proceed with FEMA?

NCEM leadership works directly with local government officials, local emergency managers, state emergency managers and other agencies, including the NC DHHS Department of Public Health Communicable Disease team, to determine that a threat to public health and safety exists because mosquito-borne disease is imminent or exists.

NCEM gathers narratives regarding expenses and damages, cost data, documentation supporting those costs, and will make a recommendation to state leadership regarding the need for FEMA assistance.

HEALTH & SAFETY, DECLARATION PROCESSES AND RELATED QUESTIONS

Which health authorities approve these activities or are involved in these abatement activities?

Typically, local authorities have the responsibility to determine and advise on disease events. They usually work alongside NC DPH Communicable Disease teams and other local, state or federal agencies.

If a federal disaster is declared, FEMA will consult with the CDC to determine the likelihood of disease and risks to public health and safety (which drives eligibility determinations for mosquito abatement activities). After consultation with CDC, the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch will issue a letter of authorizing treatments.

What does an emergency declaration mean locally if there is an event?

In addition to local controls that allow officials to rapidly protect public health and safety, an emergency declaration or a state of emergency is one of the first steps toward state or federal disaster declarations for reimbursement purposes. If reimbursement is to be considered, several emergency protocols will need to be in place, including a local state of emergency.

Does Clarke comply with health and safety laws and environmental ordinances?

Because the contract requires that all local laws, regulations and policies are a priority factor, Clarke is required to work with local officials along with federal and state officials to make sure coordination occurs at all levels and that all local, state and federal laws, regulations, ordinances and other rules are followed.

When is a federal health authority consulted?

If federal disaster funds are requested, FEMA must consult with the CDC to ensure that several factors are in place, and disease threats will be verified before a state can proceed with funding for mosquito abatement activities undertaken by eligible applicants for these funds.

FEMA is supported by the NC DHHS's Department of Public Health Communicable Disease team and other state and local authorities during this critical time.

More about [federal agencies involved with the federal disaster declaration process](#)

More about the [CDC, vector control and mosquito surveillance](#).

How are local officials involved during a state or federal disaster declarations?

Considering COVID-19 and eight federal declarations caused by severe weather over the past six years, many hundreds of local governments, counties, tribal nations and state agencies have dealt with multiple federal disaster events. Local officials must be in discussions regarding emergency orders and states of emergencies.

Most local officials, local emergency managers, and county and state government and tribal officials and staff have had many communications with NCEM and FEMA over the past five years regarding disaster-specific debris operations, emergency protective measures or damage to their facilities including roads, schools, town buildings, wastewater treatment facilities, community centers and other facilities critical to local and regional viability.

It is the local official who must provide authorization for cost reimbursement if a state or federal declaration is in place. The local official typically designates staff to communicate about cost incurred and either reports back themselves to local councils or commissioners about the type of work that was done, or that still needs to be done.

What is the process by which FEMA is activated in North Carolina?

In order to request FEMA Public Assistance, several things will need to have already occurred and must continue to occur to establish the need for FEMA.

All activities undertaken locally are documented and supported (often defined as supporting documentation) for activities taken and work performed in order to mitigate damages from weather or communicable or other serious health and safety events as quickly as possible.

If local governments exceed their financial capacity, or the State of North Carolina had a large enough weather or stand-alone mosquito or other event across multiple counties, those costs should be totaled locally and sent on to local emergency managers and local officials and on to NCEM's Recovery section for validation.

[NCEM Recovery](#) leadership summarizes areas affected, types of damages, facilities or homes damages and other factors go up the chain to NCEM's director. NCEM's director will review and then send a written request to the NC governor's office for federal assistance. The NC governor sends the request for federal assistance for various FEMA programs to the White House for the president's approval and signature. When approved, or denied, the reply from the president is sent back down through the same chain.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you have any additional questions or comments about this contract that have not been answered within [the contract](#), [contract web site](#), or this fact sheet, please email abatement@ncdps.gov. This email is monitored, and your question or comment may need to be forwarded to the appropriate contact with another agency for response.