



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

BRIAN W. AMY, MD, MHA, MPH
STATE HEALTH OFFICER



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October 13, 2005

Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Gerberding:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, our medical entomologist, Dr. Jerome Goddard, was tasked with setting up an insect vector surveillance and control program in the lower six counties of Mississippi. This project involved placing mosquito traps in affected areas, identifying thousands of specimens collected, monitoring fly and rodent populations and larviciding sites of standing (stagnant) water with "mosquito dunks." With the help of a local public health environmentalist to find a suitable site, an emergency mosquito/vector control laboratory was established in the Gulfport High School for a period of over two weeks.

Dr. Goddard has informed me that some of your staff from Ft. Collins implemented much of the mosquito surveillance, and that one person was especially helpful in this mosquito control effort. He reported that, in the midst of considerable mental and physical distress, Mr. Ron Burger cheerfully aided Dr. Goddard in routing voluminous paperwork through the local EOCs to MEMA and ultimately to FEMA for action. Mr. Burger's expertise in working hurricanes brought clarity to a very strange and often confusing process and ultimately allowed us to bring about a successful aerial spraying for mosquitoes (paid for by FEMA). His actions made Dr. Goddard and the rest of us here at the health department feel reassured that all of us – regardless of state or federal agency – are working together for the common good during this terrible disaster.

Thank you for the entomological support (Harry Savage and other members of Roger Nasci's group) and especially for Ron Burger and his significant contribution of time and energy. Dr. Goddard tells me that Mr. Burger exudes a calming confidence. We were fortunate to have had his help here in Mississippi.

If there is anything my staff or I can do for you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian W. Amy MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "B" and "A".

Brian W. Amy, MD, MHA, MPH
State Health Officer

cc: Mr. Ron Burger
4770 Buford Highway, MS-F38
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dr. Jerome Goddard