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End of Season Equipment Service & Maintenance

The end of mosquito season is near and as we pause to take a breath, our focus should now shift to preparation for next year. As we all know, ULV spraying is a last defense to controlling adult mosquitoes, and a critical part of many professional programs across the country. When mosquito pressures are high and ULV spraying is planned, you can't afford to scrub spray missions due to faulty equipment. In many cases, inoperable equipment can be traced to poor preventative maintenance; therefore, now is the perfect time to tend to your equipment before you put it away for the off season. ULV spray equipment should give you hundreds, if not thousands of hours of spraying, so we've identified five major areas to check throughout the year to help maximize your equipment investment.

1. Engine and blower or compressor - Like an automobile, the heart of a ULV machine is in the drive train and regular care should be taken to keep these components in optimal running order. Change the engine oil and filters regularly, or as required in your equipment maintenance manual. Check oil levels daily or at every use, and don't forget the blower or compressor. Many times, air source failures occur because the engine was serviced, yet the blower or compressor was simply overlooked. Replacing an

engine or blower can be very expensive and premature failures can be avoided with just a little extra attention.

2. Insecticide pump - There are several types of insecticide pumps available on ULV machines, such as gear, piston and diaphragm pumps, and they all need some TLC from time to time. Maintenance kits are available for all pump types and recommended especially as you are storing your equipment for the off season. Keep your insecticide pump clean and inspect and verify calibrations regularly.

3. Wet components such as tubing, filters and fittings and tanks - These items require regular inspections and don't last forever. UV sunlight, heat and rotating surfaces can all shorten the life of these components. Check the chemical filter often and replace the element and seal as needed. Formulation tanks should be cleaned once each year and now is the ideal time to take care of this. Chemical tubing is inexpensive and replacing each year will be money well spent.

4. Electrical - Water and corrosion are your worst enemies. Keep your electrical connections dry and corrosion-free by using a dielectric grease or spray on all electrical connections.

5. Nozzle - Maybe the most important piece of the ULV machine is the atomization nozzle itself. High-volume or high-pressure air type nozzles require routine inspection to ensure proper operation and in order to maintain the correct droplet size range for the product used. Clean and inspect the nozzle regularly and if signs of wear are observed, it's a good indicator that the droplet spectrum may be suffering as well. Perform droplet testing annually at a minimum, and be stewards of professional mosquito control -- don't use ULV nozzles that won't pass the droplet test.

Good preventive maintenance will surely save you time and money, greatly reduce down time, and ensure you meet your spray obligations. ADAPCO maintains a full line of parts and lubricants for Guardian and other ULV makes and models, as well as onsite services to help you maintain the quality and longevity of your equipment.

The service department at ADAPCO is available to answer your questions or provide assistance with replacement parts or onsite service. ADAPCO also offers 1- and 3-year adulticide ULV maintenance service kits. For customer service and support, please call 1-800-367-0659.

