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**Framingham Health Department and Framingham Medical Reserve Corps
to Conduct Survey on Mosquito & Tick Bite Prevention and Household Plans for Emergency Response**

FRAMINGHAM, MA— The Framingham Health Department in partnership with the Framingham Medical Reserve Corps is going to conduct a survey on Saturday July 8th, 2017 between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on mosquito & tick bite prevention and household plans for emergency response.

This survey is a first-of-its-kind in Massachusetts that will look at how prepared local residents are for potential disasters. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, Health Studies Branch developed CASPER; Community Assessment for Preparedness and Emergency Response, to enable government at all levels to rapidly assess a community's health needs after a disaster, as well as to measure household preparedness for disasters or emergencies. In Framingham's case, it's meant to assess preparedness levels which will help those involved in emergency response know how to best respond in times of disaster to help meet the community's needs.

The survey comes at a time of increasing levels of mosquito and tick illnesses so the survey will examine that as well. Fifteen two-member survey teams will visit neighborhoods, going door to door, looking to provide households with important insect bite prevention information and supplies as well as gather emergency preparedness plans from residents. CASPER Team members will have signage on their cars, will carry identification cards and will be wearing hi-viz yellow MRC Team shirts. They will not be collecting any personal information. There will be questions about mosquito and tick bite prevention habits, disaster preparedness, health needs and will ask residents about how to best communicate with others during disaster, hearing or vision impairment issues, concerns and barriers to their own disaster planning, and if they will evacuate during disasters and, if not, why not.

The information from the survey can be used in future planning efforts. Residents who have questions about the CASPER survey or the teams visiting neighborhoods can call Framingham Health Department at 508-532-5472.

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