

May 6, 2013

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the City of Burleson's plan for mosquito control in 2013 now includes ground spraying for mosquitoes in areas where a mosquito pool confirms West Nile virus or where a human case of West Nile virus is confirmed. The enhanced protection will cost almost \$30,000. It includes hiring a seasonal part-time employee and contracting with a private company for the ground spraying. City council approved an amendment to the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget to cover the cost.

In 2012, Texas was the center of one of the worst West Nile virus outbreaks ever recorded since the disease first appeared in the United States in 1999. In Burleson, four mosquito pools tested positive for West Nile virus in early summer. The City contracted with a private company to do ground based spraying in targeted areas where four human cases of West Nile virus were confirmed as well as in an area where a mosquito pool tested positive for West Nile virus. The ground based spraying was done in August and September.

In 2013, the focus is on the container-breeding mosquito, or urban mosquito that has a short flight range. The number of traps will increase from 1-2 per week to 6-8 per week through the mosquito breeding season (May 1-September 30). The objective is to control mosquito larvae before they develop into biting adults. Once a month during this season, waterways, historically known breeding sites and complaint locations will be inspected and treated as necessary. Once treated, those sites will be inspected every 7-14 days. After a large rain event, all locations will be inspected and treated if necessary.

All mosquitoes begin their lives in standing water so prime breeding sites include discarded tires left outdoors, poorly maintained bird baths, clogged rain gutters, unused swimming pools and plastic wading pools, pet dishes, or any other container capable of holding water for more than a few days. In addition to removing all standing water, residents are encouraged to remember and incorporate the four D's: Dusk/Dawn, Dress, DEET and Drain.

- Dusk/Dawn: Dusk and dawn are the times of day you should try to stay indoors
- Dress: Wear long sleeves and long pants when you are outside
- DEET: Use insect repellants that contain DEET or any other EPA approved insect repellent
- Drain: Mosquitoes need stagnant water to grow. Eliminate stagnant water from your home and report other areas of stagnant water to the City by calling 817-426-9832 or email code@burlesontx.com.