

August 29, 2012

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Targeted ground-based spraying for mosquitoes is scheduled to start tonight, Aug. 29, at 9 p.m. Since the public was alerted on Aug. 27 that the City would be spraying Aug. 29-31, 9 p.m.-5 a.m., City personnel have received questions concerning the product that will be sprayed and whether or not it can harm pets.

The pesticide being used for ground spraying is Environ 30-30. The active ingredient in this product is Permethrin. Permethrin is a man-made chemical that acts like the natural insecticide in the chrysanthemum flower. Because the product is applied at very low concentrations, it is not likely to harm the health of adults, children, or pets. The actual amount of dilute insecticide that lands on a typical one-quarter acre lot is less than one-third of a teaspoon. Less than 5/100ths of a teaspoon (2 or 3 medicine dropper drops) of active ingredient lands on a typical home site as microscopic droplets.

Permethrin has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1977 and is commonly used in mosquito control programs. It is also used in household insect foggers and sprays, tick and flea sprays for yards, flea dips and sprays for cats and dogs, termite treatments, agriculture and livestock products, and on clothing.

Permethrin is sprayed using ultra-low volume sprayers mounted on trucks. This method of spraying targets adult flying mosquitoes. Permethrin is generally toxic to mosquitoes only when they come into contact with the spray droplets. Spraying is performed 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. After hitting the ground, the pesticide decomposes in sunlight and in contact with moisture in less than 24 hours.

Although the product being sprayed is not likely to harm the health of pets, pet owners are advised to remove pets, along with their food and water bowls, from outdoor areas during spraying if spraying occurs in their neighborhood.

For more information on Permethrin, please refer to the National Pesticide Information Center General Fact Sheet on Permethrin at <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/PermGen.pdf>. For more information about the planned spraying for mosquitoes to combat West Nile Virus, go to the Aug. 27 City of Burleson news release at <http://tinyurl.com/9lwb2xu>. The map of the affected neighborhoods may take a few seconds to load. If you can not get the map to load, a large map is available for viewing 24/7 in the foyer at Burleson City Hall, 141. W. Renfro St.