

June 5, 2013

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City staff has been trapping and testing for mosquitoes since the beginning of May, and, as of June 5, none of those tests have come back positive for West Nile Virus.

Today also marks the first day of work for the City's part-time mosquito control technician, whose sole responsibility is larviciding (treating standing water to kill mosquito larvae) and surveillance. Larvicide is an insecticide that is specifically targeted against the larval life stage of an insect, before that mosquito grows into an adult biting mosquito. Mosquito surveillance is conducted in collaboration with Tarrant County Public Health. TCPH provides the City with traps used to collect adult mosquitoes. In 2013, the focus is on the container-breeding mosquito, or urban mosquito that has a short flight range. The number of traps set will range from 6-8 per week through the mosquito breeding season (May 1-September 30). 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.

In May, city council approved an amendment to the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget to cover the cost of hiring a mosquito control technician and contracting with a private company to ground spray for mosquitoes in areas where a mosquito pool (a pool is defined as standing water) confirms West Nile virus or where a human case of West Nile virus is confirmed. The City is following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Today's news is good, but the City also emphasizes the 4 D's: DEET, Dress, Dusk/Dawn and Drain. Use insect repellents that contain DEET or any other EPA approved insect repellent. Wear long sleeves and long pants when you are outside. Dusk (when the sun goes down) and dawn (when the sun comes up) are the times of day you should try to stay indoors. And, 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, emailing code@burlesontx.com, or file a complaint online via the City website at <http://www.burlesontx.com/requesttracker.aspx>.

In addition to following the 4 D's, residents and businesses are encouraged to be proactive by making their place of business and neighborhood unfriendly to

mosquitoes. 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.

The City is also giving away mosquito larvicide or “dunks” to residents who live inside the city limits of Burleson and who would like to begin a personal mosquito-control program. “Dunks” are small tablets comprised of an environmentally-safe larvicide that specifically targets and eliminates mosquito larvae when placed in standing water for 30 – 45 days. Common examples of standing water include bird baths, planter basins, stagnant pools, and water troughs.

The City will give away two free dunks per household to residents who stop by the Municipal Service Center, 725 S.E. John Jones Dr., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Residents must show proof of residency such as a utility bill or driver’s license. The City has a limited supply and the program is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mosquito dunks are also available at most local home, garden, and hardware stores.

For more information, go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com/mosquitocontrol.