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It's OK to starve them . . . in fact, the City strongly recommends it and will work with you to make it happen.

We are talking about mosquitoes. They love to feed on your family, friends and pets. But there is a way to starve them. Drain. Drain is the fourth D of the 4-Ds (DEET, dress, dawn/dusk, and drain), in combatting mosquitoes.

Check for standing water around your home and business. The most common breeding grounds are buckets and garbage cans, ornamental ponds, wading pools, tree holes, gutters, tarps, toys, flower pots and saucers, water dishes for your pet, wheel barrows, rain barrels, bird baths, boats and tires.

If you see standing water that is not on your property, please report it to the City's Environmental Services division by calling 817-426-9832 or email dlenartowicz@burlesontx.com. You can also file a report online at www.burlesontx.com/requesttracker. Go to the "pool/stagnant water" form under the Code Compliance heading.

Mosquito season in Burleson typically runs from May to October, with peak activity in August. Mosquitoes carry diseases such as West Nile virus that affect humans as well as heartworms which can cause heart failure and eventually death for your pet if contracted and left untreated. The City employs an environmental specialist and a mosquito technician who work through the Neighborhood Services Department to catch and test mosquitos for disease. Staff also places larvicide in areas that are known for having standing water.

In addition to checking out stagnant water reports, the City can also help you out with free mosquito dunks. These 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. The City will give away two free dunks per household to residents who come to the Municipal Service Center located at 725 S.E. John Jones Dr. Residents must show proof of residency such as a utility bill or driver's license. The City has a limited supply of dunks so they are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mosquito dunks are also available at most local home, garden, and hardware stores.

Let's review the 4-Ds - 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. And, dusk and dawn are the times of day you should try to stay indoors. The mosquito that causes the most problem in this area has a short flight range, so if you are having a mosquito problem, look in your immediate area. The breeding ground may be closer than you think. For more go to www.burlesontx.com/mosquitocontrol or call 817-426-9832.