



April 29, 2016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Surveillance and response plan to be enacted by city officials in effort to control mosquito population

City officials have made reducing the mosquito population a priority by enacting level 1 of the Mosquito Surveillance and Response Plan.

WEATHERFORD (CITY OF WEATHERFORD), Texas - The City of Weatherford will enact Risk Level 1 of the Mosquito Surveillance & Response Plan beginning May 1. Risk Level 1 is primarily focused on communicating methods for mosquito reduction and education regarding personal protection measures.

In areas where the elimination of mosquito breeding grounds is not possible, larvicides will be applied. City officials will also start conducting routine surveillance of adult mosquitoes with pre-determined traps set in locations within the city limits of Weatherford for monitoring. The collected mosquitoes will be identified and tested weekly for presence of arboviruses.

Larviciding and source reduction/elimination are considered to be the most effective long-term solutions for mosquito control. The control measures are designed to accomplish mosquito control by preventing larval mosquitoes from becoming biting adults and eliminating breeding areas.

Mosquitoes only need two (2) tablespoons of water to breed, and water can collect anywhere. Residents are encouraged to help the City of Weatherford control mosquito populations by eliminating standing water. By taking precautions, residents can prevent mosquito bites and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases by:

- Use an insect repellent when outside that is EPA-approved.
- Dressing in long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside to reduce skin exposure.
- Spraying outside of clothing with insect repellent.
- Limiting outdoor activities during peak mosquito times.
- Draining all water around homes and businesses to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.
- Keeping mosquitoes out of homes with screens on doors/windows that are intact and in good repair (that there are no holes or gaps along the screen).



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Targeted adulticide applications using up to and including ground based Ultra Low Volume Equipment (ULV fog or spray) will only be considered if there are conditions indicative of a Public Health Warning (mosquito pools are collected and test positive for virus/diseases). If adulticiding is implemented, citizens residing in areas where applications will occur will be notified through several methods including news releases, Blackboard Message and through the City's website.

The City of Weatherford will be giving away mosquito larvicide or "dunks" to residents who would like to begin a personal mosquito-control program. Households are limited to two free "dunks" due to limited quantities. Mosquito 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. Account holder must be present when picking up dunks and must show proof of residency, such as a utility bill or driver's license.

For questions, please contact consumer health inspector Angel Rudolph at 817-598-4149 or arudolph@weatherfordtx.gov. Additional information can also be found at www.weatherfordtx.gov/mosquito.

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More information about the City of Weatherford: www.weatherfordtx.gov

More information about Weatherford Mosquito Surveillance and Response Plan:

www.weatherfordtx.gov/mosquito

More information about Zika: <http://www.texaszika.org/>

More information about Zika Travel Information: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>

****City of Weatherford****

Weatherford, Texas is a service oriented, yet still "small town" community that upgrades its infrastructure, celebrates and shares its rich history, and fosters quality economic growth – in a fiscally-responsible, even revenue-generating fashion.