



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Mosquito Population Control Efforts Urged**

**New Braunfels, Texas** — With the warm weather already here, the City is urging citizens to begin efforts to help control mosquitoes in our area. The Texas Department of State Health Services has request that local government leaders take initiatives to help prevent or delay Zika virus from being transmitted by local mosquito populations in Texas. They are encouraging everyone to take measures and sustain these efforts throughout the regular mosquito season as an effective way to help protect against all mosquito-borne diseases, including Zika and West Nile.

The Centers for Disease Control is also referring citizens to [www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika) for recommendations concerning the exposure of pregnant women, and those trying to become pregnant, to the carriers of the virus and the City recommends that everyone review this information as well.

“There are important things you can do as individuals to reduce the risk of exposure to Zika virus or West Nile virus, the most important being to eliminate mosquito-breeding areas in your environment and limit your exposure to feeding mosquitoes – primarily at dawn and dusk,” said Planning and Community Development Director Christopher Looney. “Here are some simple suggestions:

- Empty out containers that hold water around your home or business
- Clean out gutters
- Remove standing water from around structures and from flat roofs
- Change water in pet dishes, wading pools and bird baths frequently
- Rinse and clean flower vases and other indoor water containers frequently
- Maintain pools and hot tubs
- Cover trash containers
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand
- Screen rain barrels and opening to water tanks or cisterns
- Report illegal dump sites and standing water
- For areas that cannot be drained adequately, use standing water treatment tabs (commonly called “mosquito dunks”)
- Treat front and back door areas of homes with repellants if mosquitoes are abundant nearby
- Cover up with long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors
- Maintain window screens
- Limit outdoor activities during peak mosquito times (dawn and dusk)

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents as directed.”

“We encourage everyone to be part of the solution and eliminate insect breeding areas and larva before they reach the airborne stage,” Mr. Looney said. “Remember the ‘Four D’s’ – Dress, Dusk/Dawn, DEET, Drain.”

“Areas of overgrown vegetation and stagnate water can certainly be a breeding ground for mosquitoes,” said John Cox, Streets and Drainage Manager. “The City of New Braunfels has mosquito control service assistance available for public drainage areas and waterways. If you are concerned about a location having the potential for mosquito breeding call 830-221-4030 between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday and have the street address of the area of concern available when you call.”

Mr. Cox also noted, “We have multiple staff members trained in mosquito abatement techniques and they have already been actively treating areas over the past month. These activities will continue all spring and summer, but we appreciate the public’s help in identifying areas that should be treated.”

Citizens can also select “I Want To... and then Get Help with Mosquito Control” from the City’s website at [www.nbtexas.org](http://www.nbtexas.org). An on-line form to report an area of concern is available there 24 hours a day.

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