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## City Urges Mosquito Control Efforts

New Braunfels, Texas — With warmer weather approaching and the continuing rain, the City is urging citizens to continue efforts to help control mosquitoes in our area.

Residents can play a large role in reducing the mosquito population by eliminating standing water to prevent mosquito breeding and the spread of mosquito related illnesses. Breeding places for mosquitoes include swimming pools that are not kept clean, stagnant ponds, pet watering dishes, birdbaths, potted plants, old tires, empty containers, toys, clogged rain gutters and French drains. Standing water should be eliminated promptly, as mosquitoes can grow from egg to adult in as little as seven days.

"The public plays a crucial part of the overall mosquito solution by eliminating mosquito breeding areas in their yard and limiting their exposure to mosquitoes," said Bryan Ruiz, Environmental Services Manager.

Here are some simple recommendations using the 4 D's:

- Defend yourself by using insect repellents as directed follow label instructions
- Dress in long sleeves and pants, loose and light-colored clothing when you go outside
- Dusk and dawn stay indoors during this time to avoid mosquitoes when they are most active
- Drain standing water and install or repair window screens

"Residents are urged to take precautions against mosquito bites by reducing outdoor activity during early morning and nighttime hours," Ruiz said. "Residents who are outside during these times should cover their arms and legs and use a mosquito repellent."

To help control mosquito populations and combat the threat of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-related illnesses, the City of New Braunfels Environmental Services Division is again providing free mosquito dunks New Braunfels residents. Mosquito dunks are a biological mosquito control containing natural mosquito larvicide, which kills mosquito larvae, but is harmless to birds, fish, wildlife, and pets. Dunks are placed in any standing water to control mosquito larvae for up to 30 days.

The mosquito dunks will be available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the City Hall lobby. City Hall is located at 550 Landa Street. The City will provide one package per household. Citizens must show proof of residency (driver's license or utility bill) and can only apply the dunks on their own property. The product is not for resale and residents should follow the product label directions. Dunks will be distributed while supplies last.

For additional mosquito control information visit <u>www.nbtexas.org/2138/Mosquito-Control</u> which is updated with new information as needed.