



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Harlingen Continues Efforts to Combat Mosquitoes**

**Harlingen, Texas**—City officials continue efforts to diminish the reproduction of mosquitoes. Health Director Josh Ramirez says crews started adulticiding or spraying the week of June 11, in anticipation of predicted rainstorms for this area. “Our goal was to get ahead of the game by targeting the mosquitoes that were already flying around. So we sprayed the entire City.”

Since last week's rainstorms, crews have sprayed the entire City two more times. In addition, crews have also been larviciding standing water. The larvicide pellets last for up to 30-days which are meant to interrupt the development of larvae or pupa into adult mosquitoes. The process targets mosquitoes in their habitats where they reproduce before they become biting adults.

All City parks have been sprayed and or larvicided and will be revisited next week as many are expected to head outdoors to celebrate the Fourth of July.

In the meantime, residents are urged to help control the mosquito population through efforts at their own homes.

- Check old tires and other containers that may collect water.
- Change the water in bird baths, fountains, and wading pools at least once a week.
- Frequently change the water in animal drinking bowls and animal troughs.
- Dump extra water from flower pots and empty saucers under plants.
- Make sure the gutters drain properly.

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- Pick up children's toys such as swimming pools and buckets where stagnant water can collect.
  - Mow the lawn at least once a week because mosquitoes hide in the shade of tall grass.

Ramirez also encourages everyone to use a repellent when outdoors especially during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. He says long sleeve shirts and pants are also helpful.

The chemicals used require the City to wait three-days before respraying. Another spraying is scheduled for the entire City next week just in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

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