



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: June 20, 2023
To: Media Outlets
From: Todd Darden, City Manager
Re: Mosquito Spraying

Aerial spraying for mosquitoes will take place on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. City administration wants to reassure the public this procedure and product to be used has been approved by FEMA, the Texas Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

- The plane will spray Big Spring in the late evening on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, weather permitting.
- The actual time of spraying will be determined by where we fit in the line-up of cities.
- Aerial spraying is particularly effective to reach hillside and rural areas in Big Spring that truck-mounted sprayers cannot reach.
- Vector Disease Control International is the company that will be spraying. They specialize in aerial application, have been in business since 1992, and have over 40 offices across the United States. These products are being applied in strict accordance with label instructions as set forth and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The company is fully licensed and certified by Federal monitoring agencies. Visit www.vdci.net for more information about the company.
- The product used will be Perm-X UL 31-66; visit www.clarke.com for product information.
- Is aerial spraying safe for people with asthma?
 - When aerial spraying is done correctly, it does not cause asthma attacks.
 - When applied according to label instructions, EPA-registered insecticides do not pose a risk to human health or the environment.
 - If people prefer to stay inside when spraying takes place they can, but it is not necessary.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the office of Todd Darden, City Manager, at 432-264-2401.



Mosquito control districts or local government departments track both nuisance mosquitoes and mosquitoes that can spread viruses. When large numbers of nuisance or infected mosquitoes are found or when people in a large area are getting sick, airplanes and helicopters can treat very large areas with insecticides safely, quickly and efficiently. This process is called aerial spraying.

Aerial spraying is used to:

- Control and reduce the number of mosquitoes, some of which can spread viruses.
- Help reduce your chances of getting sick.

What does insecticide spraying do?

Airplanes and helicopters spray products that quickly kill either adult mosquitoes or mosquito larvae to reduce the number of mosquitoes in an area.

- Spraying larvicides kills mosquito larvae that hatch from eggs.
- Spraying adulticides quickly kills flying mosquitoes.
- Both larvicides and adulticides temporarily reduce the number of mosquitoes in an area, but do not permanently get rid of them.

How does aerial spraying work?

- Airplanes spray very low volumes of either adulticide or larvicide into areas where mosquitoes are present.
- Aerial spraying of larvicides can occur at any time. Aerial spraying of adulticides occurs when mosquitoes are most active and when pollinating insects are not active.
- Aerial spraying is more effective and faster than truck-mounted or handheld sprayers in treating large areas of land.

How will I know aerial spraying is going to take place?

The dates and times of aerial sprayings are typically announced in the local newspaper, on district websites, through public service announcements, by telephone, or through door-to-door campaigns.

Do I need to leave the area during aerial spraying?

No. You do not need to leave an area during aerial spraying. When applied by a licensed vector control professional who follows label instructions, aerial spraying poses minimal risk to people, pets, animals, and the environment.

Because aerial spraying uses very low volumes of either adulticide or larvicide, you aren't likely to breathe or touch anything that has enough insecticide on it to harm you. There is a possibility that spraying larvicides, like Bti, or adulticides can cause eye irritation if a person is outside when spraying takes place.



Airplane spraying either adulticide or larvicide onto targeted areas.
Photo courtesy of Ed Freytag, City of New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board

Information on insecticides and health:

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency oversees the registration of these insecticides.
- ◆ The [National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\)](#) provides information online or through a toll-free number, 1-800-858-7378.

