



Cameron County
Department of Health and Human Services

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Cameron County's Response for Controlling Mosquitoes
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In light of the recent rains, the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services is asking the citizens of Cameron County to make a difference in the fight against disease by eliminating mosquito breeding sites often found around homes and businesses. "We have initiated our Cameron County Vector Control Disaster Response Plan to work on spraying for mosquitoes and will continue to do so weather permitting, however, eliminating mosquitoes is a joint effort and we need everyone's help," said Cameron County Judge Carlos H. Cascos.

As part of the Cameron County Vector Control Disaster Response Plan, the CCDHHS is working on the following key points:

- Coordinating with the various cities and towns in Cameron County with a Vector Control Program and licensed applicators.
- Vector Control Officers continue with surveillance activities to include surveying to identify flooded areas and areas with stagnant water, mosquito landing rate counts, and mosquito trap collections.
- Vector Control Officers have dropped approximately 3,000 "larvaciding briquettes", charcoal-like briquettes which release a growth regulator to prevent mosquitoes in the larval stage from becoming adults. These efforts will continue with briquettes being placed in areas where the water has stopped flowing and is stagnant.
- Although all areas within Cameron County's jurisdiction will be sprayed (with the exception of private property which is prohibited by state law), initial efforts are targeting those areas most impacted by standing water, high mosquito landing rate counts, and the areas showing a high number of mosquito reports.
- Spraying will only be done when the wind velocity is no more than 10 MPH, it is not raining, and the temperature is 70 degrees or higher, anything less will not allow chemical to work properly.
- CCDHHS has also initiated collaborative efforts with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to obtain additional supplies as needed.

Information and education is key to the success of the Cameron County Vector Control Disaster Response Plan. As county residents, individuals can take a personal responsibility and play a vital role in vector control to help prevent mosquito breeding by keeping yards mowed and by taking personal precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. The Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services offers these suggestions for your defense against exposure to mosquitoes:

Remember the "Four D's"

- **Dusk/Dawn** are the times of the day you should try to stay indoors. This is when infected mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when you're outside. For extra protection, you may want to spray thin clothing with repellent.
- **Deet** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Follow label instructions, and always wear repellent when outdoors.
- **Drain** standing water in your yard and neighborhood-old tires, flowerpots, and clogged rain gutters. These are mosquitoes breeding sites.

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For media inquiries, contact the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services at (956) 247-3685.