



Town of Little Elm
100 West Eldorado Parkway
Little Elm, TX 75068
(214) 975-0406
www.littleelm.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Celso Martinez 972-623-8836

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Little Elm maintains level two of WNV response plan

LITTLE ELM (August 26, 2015) Little Elm's Mosquito Management and Response Plan, developed and implemented in 2012, is designed to guide the Town's response to any incidents involving the discovery of insects infected with West Nile Virus, says Fire Chief Joe Florentino.

"That plan has some very specific actions designed to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents," he said. "It speaks to the importance of being fully prepared and responding swiftly and effectively when a positive result is discovered in a mosquito pool."

Yesterday, Public Works personnel uncovered a mosquito pool with evidence of West Nile Virus at the trapping station inside the Public Works Service Center, 1600 Mark Tree Lane. At the same time, workers have found no evidence of the disease in any of the other six sites around town. And, there has not been a confirmed case of human occurrence of the disease anywhere in Little Elm.

Florentino oversees the implementation of the Mosquito Management and Response Plan (MMRP) as head of the Little Elm Emergency Management Program. He says the MMRP is modeled after the state's Department of Public Health plan related to WNV. The Town is now in level two, Enhanced Response, of the three-level plan.

"The protocols we use in the Little Elm plan have been established by qualified experts, giving us the benefit of their research and study," said the Chief. "A large section of the plan deals with eliminating the mosquito habitat, preventing their breeding and constant surveillance. In addition, sharing critical information and educating the public are pillars of the program."

These efforts seem to be bearing fruit as far more negative results than positive results are being revealed in the capture and examination of insects.

Nevertheless, residents are constantly reminded of the four Ds of prevention, and free pond larvicides, known as "dunks" are made available to anyone who requests them.

"Experts have weighed in on how to address this issue, and we are taking those lessons and implementing them," said the Chief. "There's no advantage to haphazard responses. The science is there, and our plan is based on that science."

Signs will go up in the area surrounding the Public Works Service Center, and residents are once again encouraged to implement any and all preventive measures for combating the virus. These include using pesticides with DEET, dressing defensively, limiting outdoor activity during dawn and dusk and draining all standing water.

For more information, including locations to obtain dunks and how to review the MMRP, contact Emergency Management at 972-377-1896, Health Services at 214-731-3276 and Public Works at 214-377-5556.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.