



## Mosquito Control Spraying FAQ

### Why is my area being sprayed for mosquitoes?

Mosquito-control spraying is conducted when monitoring activities in your area confirm the presence of a West Nile Virus (WNV) positive mosquito sample. The purpose of spraying is to reduce the mosquito population and reduce the risk to residents and animals.

### How can I find out if spraying is taking place in my area?

The City's website and social media feeds are updated on Monday. We also use a phone/SMS text/email notification system to alert affected residents about spraying activities in their neighborhood.

### When is mosquito control spraying conducted?

If the Environmental Health Department receives notification that confirms the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in mosquito traps located in your area, target ground spraying will be conducted on Monday and Tuesday nights.

### Why does the City spray on Monday night?

Our staff collects mosquito samples on Friday. The samples are sent to the Dallas County Health and Human Services for testing, and the City receives sample results at noon on Monday. If a notification that confirms the presence of WNV is received, the City will spray Monday and Tuesday night to minimize the risk to residents and animals. Spraying as soon as possible helps eliminate the possibility of infected mosquitoes transferring the virus to humans, as well as reproduction of infected mosquitoes.

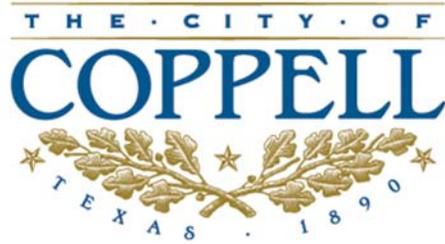
### What types of insecticides or biological methods are used to control mosquitoes?

In addition to eliminating breeding habitats, a variety of different products may be used to control mosquitoes, including biological and chemical products that control mosquito larvae or adults. Only products approved by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are used. Most products are applied at extremely low volumes, typically a few ounces or less per acre.

The City also uses *Gambusia* and *Bluegill* fish to control mosquito larvae in stagnant bodies of water. These fish help control the mosquito population by eating mosquito larvae and provide the City with a very cost effective method to control the mosquito population.

### What chemical is used during ground spraying?

The City's contracts with Dallas County to spray for mosquitoes, and the County uses water-based insecticides that offer low toxicity, low odor, rapid biodegradation and high mosquito mortality. The chemical is called Aqua Reslin. Spraying generally takes place between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. while mosquitoes are active and winds are low.



### **What can I do to protect myself and my family from a mosquito-borne disease?**

The easiest and best way to avoid a mosquito-borne disease is to prevent mosquito bites, which can be accomplished by eliminating breeding grounds and adult mosquitoes on your property and by actively protecting yourself and your family against bites when you are outside.

A great prevention reminder is to follow the 4D's:

- **Defend** yourself by applying insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus\* or PMD. Use repellent all day, every day.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants.
- Stay indoors at **dusk** and **dawn**.
- **Drain** all stagnant water in your yard.

#### [Fight the Bite](#)

#### [Protect Your Home](#)

### **Do mosquitoes breed in all bodies of water?**

No. It is a common misconception that creeks, ponds, and lakes are mosquito breeding habitats. Mosquitoes cannot breed successfully in flowing water, and creeks can only produce mosquitoes when they dry up and leave shallow, stagnant puddles in the creek bed. Mosquito larvae associated with permanent bodies of water (creeks, ponds, etc.) generally live where the water is shallow (1 ft. or less) and where weeds, debris, emergent grasses or some sort of aquatic vegetation shelters the mosquito larvae from fish and other predators.

### **Whom should I contact if I suspect a mosquito breeding ground in the City of Coppell?**

To report suspected mosquito breeding sites in the City of Coppell, please call 972-462-5177, or email [evhealth@coppelltx.gov](mailto:evhealth@coppelltx.gov)

### **How will these insecticides affect me and my family?**

The City's contractor uses water-based insecticides that offer low toxicity, low odor, rapid biodegradation and high mosquito mortality. However, it is always a good idea to remain indoors during applications.

### **Can pets go outside during spraying?**

The materials used for controlling mosquitoes are not harmful to animals. However, if you want to reduce your pet's exposure, keep them inside during spraying.