NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: CHAUNCY WILLIAMS, REHS/RS

PHONE: (972) 878-1234

E-MAIL: healthdept@ennistx.gov

WEBSITE: http://www.ennistx.gov

Continued Ground Spraying For Mosquitoes

On October 13th the City's Department of Health Services received conformation from the Texas Department of State Health Service Laboratory that a thrid Mosquito Pool collected in the City tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). This mosquito sample pool was collected from a mosquito trap that had been set at 901 Park Street on October 6th. The positive test has prompted the City to continue Ground Spraying for Mosquites. The Department began it's city wide mosquito surveillance efforts of trapping mosquitoes for testing for the presence of the WNV and other mosquito related diseases on May 6th of this year. Typically, the City's mosquito surveillance efforts begin in late April and ends in mid to late November.

Again due to the positive mosquitoe sample pool collected in the City and according to Departments Mosquito Control Policy based on the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services recommended mosquito surveillance and control methodology; ground spraying efforts for mosquito control will begin on **Tuesday evening, October 13, 2015 and Thursday evening, October 15, 2015 at 9:30p.m. each night, *we*ather conditions permitting (no rain or winds over 10 mph).**

In order to determine the need to spray and to determine if the spraying was effective city wide mosquito surveillance efforts will continue this year until testing is suspended by the State. **Note: The City's Ground Spraying efforts are expected to continue in the coming weeks for details please visit the City of Ennis Website at: http://www.ennistx.gov/**

The targeted mosquito control (spraying) areas are described as follows:

TARGETED AREAS

Spraying on:
Tuesday, October 13th @ 9:30p.m.
The areas South of Ennis Ave.

Spraying on:
Thursday October 15th @ 9:30p.m.
The areas North of Ennis Ave,

SEE ATTACHED MOSQUITO CONTROL SPRAY MAP (EXHIBIT "A")

NOTE: This map depicts tentative schedules and is subject to change without notice due to disease priorities, weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Again, these areas are scheduled for spraying this **Tuesday and Thursday** **evenings, weather conditions permitting (no rain or winds over 10 mph).** Spray activities will commence
at approximately 9:30 p.m. and will be completed within a 3 to 4 hour period. Spraying is limited to city streets. Alleyways cannot be sprayed as the truck may not have space to maneuver and the risk of encountering children or pets is high in alleyways.

Because spraying involves a micro-fine mist of insecticide (AllPro, Aqualuer 20-20) from an ultra low volume fogger machine which is mounted on a truck, citizens should not experience adverse health effects. However, sensitive individuals and people with pre-existing medical conditions, including asthma, allergies and emphysema, may experience temporary skin and eye irritation, congestion or runny nose, sore or scratchy throat, and moderate respiratory irritations. For these reasons citizens are advised that the following precautions should be taken when spraying is scheduled in their neighborhood:

- If possible stay indoors during spray events
- Have children stay indoors until 1-2 hours after the spray event
- Bring pets indoors and cover fishponds and beehives
- Close windows and turn off fans or air conditioners that are exposed to outdoor air
- Remove children's toys, outdoor equipment and clothes from outdoor areas
- If toys, play equipment or furniture are left outside, wash with soap and water before using them again
- If you must stay outdoors during spray events, avoid eye and skin contact with spray. If contact should occur, rinse eyes with water or saline solution, and wash skin and clothing with soap and water
- Wash fruits and vegetables that are exposed to the spray before eating them

If you believe that you are experiencing symptoms associated with the spraying, please contact your health care provider and ask them to report your symptoms to the Ennis Health Department (phone: 972-878-1234). The City will try to do everything possible to accommodate individuals who, for varying reasons prefer their property not be sprayed. For

those who do not wish to have their property sprayed you may contact the Ennis Health Department (phone: 972-878-1234)

Further information on West Nile virus and mosquito control may be found on the Texas Department of State Health Services website:

http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westnile/ and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website:

http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/westnile.htm

and

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed upon the blood of an infected bird. The infected mosquitoes can transmit the virus to other humans and animals.

The City is again urging residents to avoid mosquito bites and reduce mosquito populations around their home and neighborhoods. By taking a few, common-sense precautions, people can help protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Be aware of peak mosquito hours**. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Limit your time outdoors during these peak periods of mosquito activity Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that take place during evening or early morning hours. Otherwise, take extra care to use bug spray and protective clothing.

- **Clothing can help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot,wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

- **Take special care** to cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. When you bring a baby outdoors, cover the baby's carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.

- **Apply bug spray** when you go outdoors. Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET or Picaridin. Oil of lemon eucalyptus may also be considered. Products with permethrin should only be used on clothing. Always follow the directions on the label. Repellents should not be used on children younger than two months of age. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently. Mosquitoes will begin to breed in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days.

Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors. Fix any holes or tears in screens, so mosquitoes can't get in.