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RESIDENTS REMINDED STANDING WATER INVITES MOSQUITOS *As Monsoon Rains Continue, Glendale Gives Tips to Safeguard Against Mosquito-borne Illnesses*

Glendale, Ariz. – With months of monsoon activity still ahead of us this summer, the city of Glendale reminds residents to eliminate standing water to protect their homes and families against mosquitoes and diseases such as West Nile virus.

“We often see a dramatic increase in mosquitos around standing water, depending on the amount of rain each monsoon season,” explains Monica Rabb, Glendale environmental program manager.

The best way to eliminate mosquitoes is to eliminate their breeding sites. Residents, businesses, homeowner's associations, and municipalities are all responsible for eliminating and preventing mosquito breeding on their property.

Glendale Parks Division oversees the preventative treatment and elimination of mosquito breeding at city-operated facilities, including city parks, wildlife habitats, and retention basins.

Parks crews begin applications of larvacide treatment each year around April. Crews continue mitigation and ongoing inspections of known areas for standing water after rains, irrigation breaks or water related issues within 24 to 36 hours following each rain event through late October.

Additionally, park rangers monitor flood-irrigated parks closely during monsoon season to ensure standing water does not exceed a 36 hour threshold. Mineral oil is also used as needed in the form of a proactive larvacide treatment.

Standing water, even in the shallowest containers, acts as a breeding ground for mosquitos, so follow these essential preventive measures to fight the bite:

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West Nile Reminder/1-1-1

- Reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home. Mosquitoes breed in standing water and their eggs will hatch within days after it rains. Check your yard once a week and after it rains, and get rid of containers that collect water. Empty water from flower pots, change water in bird baths, and check for any leaky water equipment.

- Report any pools in your neighborhood that are not being maintained properly. Occupied homes should be reported to Glendale's Code Compliance Division at 623-930-3610; unoccupied homes should be reported to Maricopa County at 602-506-0700.

- Reduce the number of mosquito bites you get. Make a habit of using insect repellent when outdoors. Repellents should be used according to the label instructions.

- Prime mosquito-biting hours are usually from dusk to dawn. Pay special attention to protection during these hours, or avoid being outdoors.

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department monitors mosquito activity throughout the county. It also responds to all complaints related to green pools, stagnant water, dead birds and of course mosquitoes. Residents can contact the Maricopa County Vector Control Hotline at **602-506-0700** or online at www.maricopa.gov/wnv. Additional information and resources are available on Glendale's website, as well, at <http://www.glendaleaz.com/environmentalresources/publichealth.cfm#WestNile>.

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