

City of Braham
Mosquito Drone Policy
Approved by Council 7 day of July, 2020

Summary of the Problem

If ignored, mosquitos, which are born in stagnant water, can spread illnesses within nearby human populations. These diseases are known as vector-borne illnesses and include the West Nile Virus, dengue fever, and eastern equine encephalitis.

The City has used and will continue to use a truck sprayer to distribute mosquito larvicide which prevents mosquitos from spreading these diseases through the community. However, the sprayer truck cannot distribute the larvicide to the most important hard-to-reach areas of stagnant water.

Solution

To better protect our community from these vector-borne illnesses, the City will operate an agriculture drone for non-law enforcement purposes to distribute larvicide on the most isolated areas of stagnate water.

Compliance

The City has been and will continue to be in compliance with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). These agencies regulate drone usage through extensive operating requirements, pilot certification, aircraft registration, and chemical distribution.

The City and the City's drone operators will be authorized through the FAA's Part 107 certification. Under Part 107, the drone operator must:

- fly the drone no higher than 400 feet above ground level;
- operate the drone only during daylight hours;
- keep the drone within the pilot's visual line of sight;
- be at least 16 years old and pass a knowledge test;
- only operate drones which are less than 55 pounds;
- not fly the drone over people; and
- have insurance for the drone and the spraying.

Precautions

The public will be given advance notice of the drone's flights on the City's website (www.braham.com) and the City's Facebook page (www.fb.com/BrahamMinnesota).

The drone does not collect or store images or videos and the City will continue to employ best practices to ensure the safety and privacy of its residents.

Any misuse of the City's drone(s) by city employees will result in disciplinary action including and up to separation from the City.