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NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF:

**DENNIS SMITH
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GREGG COUNTY**

Termite Swarming Season

Subterranean termites are the most destructive insect pests of wood in the United States. They cause more than \$2 billion in damage each year, more property damage than that caused by fire and windstorm combined.

In nature, subterranean termites are beneficial. They break down many dead trees and other wood materials that would otherwise accumulate. The biomass of this breakdown process is recycled to the soil as humus.

Problems occur when termites attack the wooden elements of human structures -- homes, businesses and warehouses. Their presence is not readily noticed because they hide their activity behind wallboards, siding or wood trim.

Homeowners in all areas of Texas should watch for subterranean termites and take precautions to prevent infestations.

Thorough inspections can determine whether infestations and damage are present, whether remedial control measures are needed, and what conditions can encourage termite attack.

Texas A&M Department of Entomology has an excellent web site for Termite information. This site is dedicated to providing current information on termites found in the State of Texas.

Information that can be found on this site includes their identifying characteristics. The type of damage done, as well as their distribution. The address for this site is: <http://termites.tamu.edu>.

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