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Riverside County

NEWS RELEASE

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Mosquito control applications scheduled for Moreno Valley/Nuevo on Thursday

Due to the extremely high activity of West Nile virus, the Riverside County Vector Control Program has scheduled ultra low volume (ULV) ground applications Thursday (10/29) in Moreno Valley using truck mounted sprayers. The treatment reduces the risk of disease transmission to humans and animals by reducing the number of adult mosquitoes in a neighborhood.

Treatment with the EPA-approved mosquito control product Zenivex will occur in Moreno Valley near the intersections of John F. Kennedy Drive/Oliver Street and Rockwood Avenue/Oliver Street. In Nuevo, the product will be applied in the area bounded by Orange Street, Lakeview Street, Hansen Avenue and the Ramona Expressway. Application will be conducted in both areas between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Thursday.

The treatment is unrelated to the recent discovery in San Jacinto of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which can carry yellow fever and other viruses.

All products are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency for controlling mosquitoes and protecting public health. The products are applied according to label instructions by trained and certified technicians. Although the products pose a very low risk to no risk, some people may prefer to avoid exposure. To minimize exposure, residents and pets may remain indoors and keep windows closed during and for 15 minutes following the application. The amount of material sprayed is three ounces per

acre, which ensures that humans, animals and crops are safe. Signs have been posted along the route informing residents about the control efforts.

In addition, members of the vector control staff are intensifying mosquito surveillance, searching out mosquito breeding sites, and conducting larval control where appropriate.

Residents can reduce the chances of being bitten by mosquitoes by taking the following precautions:

- Protect against mosquito bites by using insect repellent. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age, and only in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Lemon eucalyptus oil should not be used on children under age three.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. Dawn and dusk are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities planned for those hours.
- Choose clothes that can help reduce mosquito bites. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from skin.
- Mosquito-proof your home. Drain standing water, where mosquitos lay their eggs and drain and scrub items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty and scrub unused flowerpots and wading pools. Change water in birdbaths and pet bowls at least weekly.
- Keep mosquitoes outside with tight-fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Contact the Riverside County Vector Control program at (951) 766-9454 or your local vector-control district to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish or report neglected pools or standing water as potential mosquito sources. Visit the department online <http://www.rivcoeh.org/Programs/vector> for more information.