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Riverside County

NEWS RELEASE

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Riverside County Vector Control Program will perform mosquito fogging in Nuevo on Monday

Due to a sample of mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile virus and increased mosquito numbers, Riverside County Environmental Health Vector Control Program will spray in Nuevo on Monday, August 8, 2016. The area is Hemet Model Masters Airfield and Mystic Field. (See accompanied map).

The application of EPA approved mosquito control product Zenivex (EPA Reg No 2724-807) will occur between the hours of 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. and is aimed at reducing the adult mosquito population. The Riverside County Environmental Health Vector Control Program has been working hard to use Integrated Pest Management Practices, with the majority of their efforts focusing on preventing mosquito breeding and killing mosquito larvae before they become flying adults. However, due to elevated mosquito numbers, they have decided that adult mosquito control via handheld fogger is the best means to control the current mosquito populations in this area. This can be an important step in interrupting the disease transmission of West Nile virus.

The mosquitoes were collected on July 27, 2016. Test results came back on August 2, 2016. Signs were placed in the area alerting residents and business of the planned spraying operation.

It is not unusual for mosquitoes in parts of Riverside County to test positive for the virus, especially during the summer. In 2015, 17 samples out of 713 tested positive.

The virus can be transmitted to humans and some animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most individuals who are infected will not experience any illness. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. However, young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of more severe symptoms. Anyone with symptoms should contact their health care provider.

The department's vector-control staff has intensified mosquito surveillance, as well as efforts to control adult and larval mosquitoes in this area to reduce the mosquito populations and interrupt the disease transmission cycle. Residents are encouraged to take an active role to reduce the threat of West Nile virus in their neighborhoods.

- Protect yourself 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 should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Lemon eucalyptus oil should not be used on children under three years of age.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. Dawn and dusk are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities during that time. Report any day-biting mosquitoes to vector staff, stressing that you are being bitten during the day vs. at dawn or dusk.
- Clothing 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 because mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places for mosquitoes to breed by draining/discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools. Change water in birdbaths and pet bowls at least weekly.
- Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly 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 and report neglected pools or standing water as potential mosquito sources. Visit the department online at www.rivcoeh.org or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideCountyEH/> to obtain more information.

