

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Reminds All To Be Careful This Weekend As Temps Decrease

Aug 27, 2010 – After a two-week stint of record temperatures, the valley seems to be receiving a reprieve from the heat. This welcome cooling will likely draw a lot of residents outdoors to enjoy gardening, barbeques, and other activities hindered by the blistering temps. The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District wants to remind residents that although temperatures have decreased, mosquito breeding and West Nile virus (WNV) activity are still “hot as ever”.

District Manager Min-Lee Cheng, Ph. D., said, “We have received confirmation of two more mosquito samples testing positive for WNV. One was collected near Victoria Park and Baseline in Rancho Cucamonga and the other near Pipeline and Rosewood in Chino Hills. Recent temperatures have really turbocharged mosquito populations and the potential for human illness is still very high. When you go out this weekend, be sure to take a good insect repellent with you, it can save your life.”

When choosing a repellent, look for products that contain the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR3535; all are exceptional at repelling mosquitoes. Be sure to read the application directions prior to use.

More information can be viewed at www.wvmosquito.org or www.wvmvcd.org. The District phone number is 909-635-0307. The office is located at 1295 East Locust St. Ontario CA, 91761 and is open Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

Symptoms of West Nile virus:

People infected with WNV can have no symptoms, West Nile Fever, or West Nile Neuroinvasive disease. Symptoms usually occur 2-15 days after infection.

Symptoms of West Nile Fever can include:

- Headaches (often severe migraines)
- High fever
- Tiredness and body aches
- Occasionally a skin rash and swollen lymph glands

Even healthy people may suffer sickness for several days to several weeks, and be unable to function normally.

Symptoms of West Nile Neuroinvasive disease can include:

- Severe Headache
- High Fever
- Stiff neck
- Stupor
- Disorientation
- Tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness
- Paralysis
- Coma

This form of the disease can lead to long-lasting if not permanent damage to the body and brain.

Remember to use these steps to protect yourself:

- **Dump standing water** – tires, buckets, birdbaths, flowerpots, and even soda cans become “mosquito nurseries”.
- **Defend your house** – make sure screens on windows and doors are tight fitting and in good repair.
- **Defend yourself** – when outdoors at dusk and dawn, use a mosquito repellent. The active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR 3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus are the longest lasting and most effective.

For more information visit: <http://www.wvmosquito.org> and <http://www.westnile.ca.gov>.

Residents can also report dead birds and squirrels to the CA Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline, 877-WNV BIRD (968-2473) or visit on-line at: www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information or an interview, please contact Dr. Min-Lee Cheng or Brian Reisinger at 909-635-0307.