



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week

Lancaster, CA – The California State Assembly recently passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 51 (ACR 51) and declared the week of April 19 through 25, 2015, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District would like to use this opportunity to remind residents to do their part to reduce the mosquito population and disease risk in the Antelope Valley.

“It takes teamwork to deal with the mosquito menace”, said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Our technicians do what they can to treat mosquito breeding sites like ditches and basins, but residents have to make sure they are not creating habitat for these vectors on their property.”

The AVMVCD recommends that everybody follow the “Three D’s of Mosquito Control”:

- Dump/Drain all standing water
- Dusk/Dawn are the times mosquitoes are most active
- Defend yourself – use repellents (DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535) and dress in light colored long sleeved clothes, during mosquito activity

As of 4/10/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 4 Counties in 5 dead birds, and one mosquito sample. Last year the Antelope Valley recorded WNV in two people, 5 dead birds, 4 mosquito samples, and 29 sentinel chickens.

More tips to keep mosquitoes away and stay safe:

- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers or thunder showers
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Keep screen doors and windows in good repair and close them
- Don't use bug zappers near your patio – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

To stay up-to-date on new WNV activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information check out our website at www.avmosquito.org, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.

Also remember to:

- Get FREE mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) for fish ponds, pools, and horse troughs.
- Vaccinate your horses properly.
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD.
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).