

San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Recent Rains Create a Cause for Concern!

-Abundant mosquitoes have additional opportunity to develop-

(STOCKTON, CA) – An already large mosquito population will soon have ample opportunity to increase their numbers with recent rains. San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) is making a public plea to residents to eliminate all standing water around their homes. “During warmer weather, mosquitoes can complete development in as short as five days,” said Aaron Devencenzi, spokesman for the District. “As little as a tablespoon of water is sufficient in providing mosquitoes a place to develop,” said Devencenzi.

Residents should immediately inspect their yards for standing water. Areas of concern are: buckets, tires, wheelbarrows, toys, clogged rain gutters, flower pot saucers, bird baths, neglected swimming pools, and hot tubs, ornamental ponds, waterfalls, and any other containers holding standing water.

The District can also provide mosquito-eating fish for ornamental ponds, neglected swim pools, and animal water troughs. The fish are provided free to residents within San Joaquin County and city areas. The mosquitofish are relatively self sustaining and can withstand varying water temperatures. Best of all, the District will deliver the fish upon request.

To reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases, consider these precautions:

- Apply insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin when outdoors, according to label instructions.
- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, at dawn and dusk, and especially for the first two hours after sunset.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Exclude mosquitoes from your home with tight fitting screens on doors and windows.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Contact your veterinarian for information on vaccinating equine against WNV.
- **Report dead birds to 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or www.westnile.ca.gov.**
- **To request fish or report significant mosquito infestations: call San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District at 209-982-4675 or 1-800-300-4675.**

In 2005, there were 36 human cases, 19 horse cases, 38 groups of mosquitoes, and six flocks of sentinel chickens that tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in San Joaquin County. The first evidence of WNV activity for 2005 was found in a dead bird collected on June 7, 2005. Currently, for 2006, there has been no evidence of West Nile virus activity found in San Joaquin County.

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