



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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First 2015 Detection of West Nile Virus in Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County – East Side Mosquito Abatement District announced that one dead bird tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) from the City of Modesto. This is the first detection of WNV activity in the county this year. As of May 15th, WNV has been detected in 10 California counties with the WNV activity confirmed in 18 dead birds, 17 mosquito samples, no horses, and no human cases.

According to officials, reporting and testing of dead birds is an important step in preventing West Nile Virus. A confirmed case of the virus in dead birds or mosquito samples helps to identify areas that need treatment to reduce mosquito activity. To report a dead bird, call the California State hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD or report it online at www.westnile.ca.gov. Birds of particular interest to the State are crows, ravens, magpies, jays and raptors (hawk or eagle).

Both East Side and Turlock Mosquito Abatement Districts encourage the citizens of Stanislaus County to continue their efforts with WNV prevention. People can also use these simple steps to help people protect themselves and others from mosquito bites and WNV:

- Eliminate sources of standing water. Dump out any container that can hold water for more than a few days.
- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, during the early morning and late afternoon.
- When outdoors, cover up as much skin as possible. Wearing long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing will help reduce mosquito bites.
- Keep mosquitoes out of your home by making sure tight fitting screens are on doors and windows.
- Apply insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET when outdoors, according to label instructions. In addition to DEET-based products, the Centers for Disease Control also recommend insect repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus and Picaridin.

To report mosquito-breeding problem areas, Stanislaus County residents should contact one of the two mosquito abatement districts that serve the county. For Stanislaus County addresses north of the Tuolumne River, residents should call the Eastside Mosquito Abatement District at 522-4098 (www.eastsidemosquito.com) and all others should contact the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at 634-1234 (turlockmosquito.org).

For more information, visit the Stanislaus County Emergency website (www.stanemergency.com) for WNV information.

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