



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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DIRECTOR-HEALTH OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Administrative Communication Unit

559-445-3249

Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District

Steve Mulligan 559-896-1085

First 2011 West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes in Fresno County

West Nile Virus positive mosquitoes have been identified in Fresno County for the first time in 2011. The Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District has notified the Fresno County Department of Public Health of the positive test results provided by the State's laboratory.

In California so far this year, non-human West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has been reported in birds and mosquitoes in 11 counties. No human cases have been reported to date in 2011. Statewide in 2010, a total of 111 human cases of West Nile Virus were reported with 6 deaths. In Fresno County in 2010, 23 human cases were reported with 1 death.

"Evidence of West Nile Virus activity emphasizes the importance of taking personal precautions to protect against mosquito bites," states Steve Mulligan, Manager of the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District. "Residents should also engage the services of their mosquito abatement district, if necessary, to eliminate mosquito-breeding sources around their homes."

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes or contracting WNV, Fresno County residents are urged to take the following precautions:

- Apply insect repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535 according to label instructions.
- Use repellent, especially in the early morning and in the evening, when mosquitoes that carry WNV are most active.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.
- Eliminate standing water and containers that can hold water from around the home.
- Contact mosquito abatement districts to report poorly maintained swimming pools or water features that appear green. Neglected pools are the # 1 source of mosquito breeding in residential areas. There have been over 3,000 neglected swimming pools reported in Fresno County.
- Get FREE mosquito fish for backyard ponds or horse troughs from mosquito abatement districts. Call 1-800-821-1577 for information.
- Report dead birds and dead tree squirrels.

Residents can visit the Fresno County Department of Public Health website at www.fcdph.org to download a "Heard the Buzzzzz?" brochure which contains steps to protect their family, their home, and their community from WNV.

Residents can also call 1-800-821-1577 to speak to a mosquito abatement district representative. For additional information about WNV or to report dead birds and dead tree squirrels, visit the California Department of Public Health website at www.westnile.ca.gov or call 1-877-WNV-BIRD.

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Dedicated to Public Health

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