

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

July 26, 2013

Spike in West Nile virus Activity Triggers Discussion on Residents' Safety

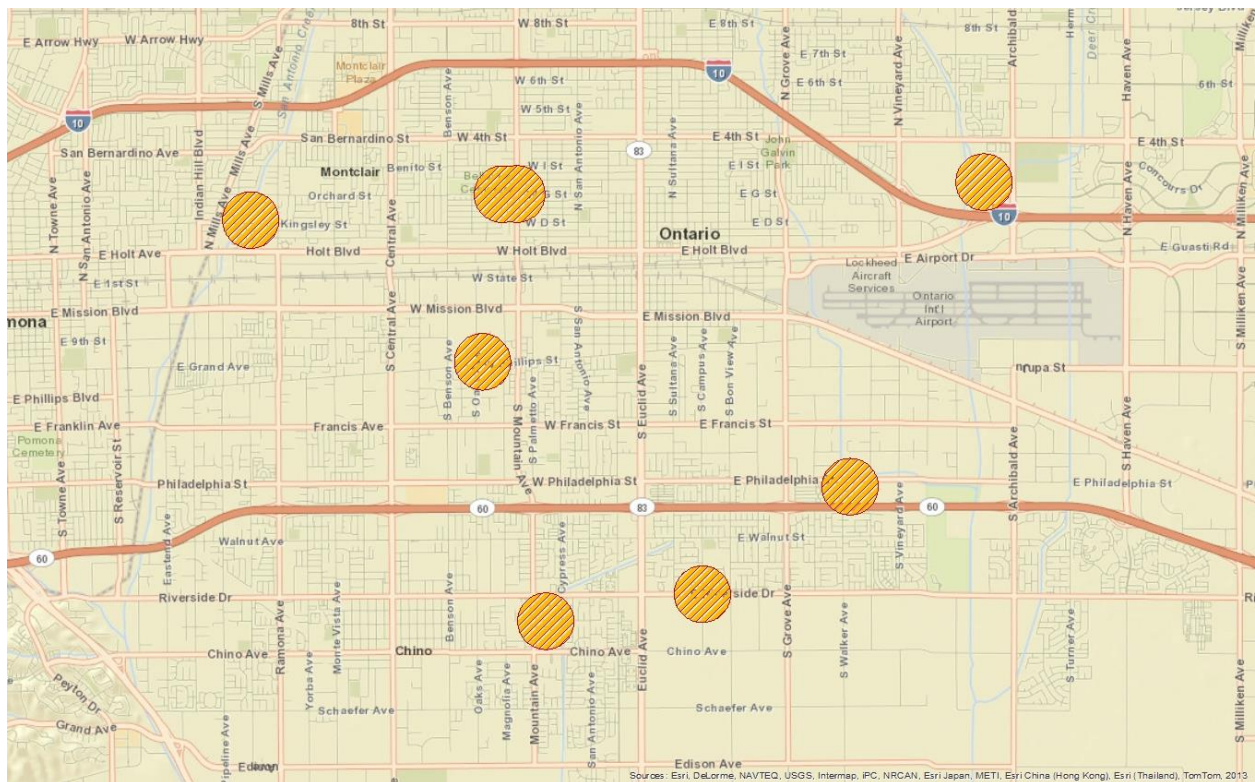
The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has been detecting a consistently high number of mosquitoes caught in traps in the northwest sector of Ontario for the past few weeks. Currently, over ninety percent of the West Nile virus (WNV) activity recorded by the District stems from Ontario, primarily in the northwest and southern sectors. The neighborhoods near Fourth Street and N. Oak Avenue, up to the 10 freeway and across to Benson are at a higher risk of exposure to West Nile virus. The District became concerned when mosquito traps began showing a marked increase in volume and WNV detection. Overall, 6.7% (48 of 714) mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV. However, in the last 2 weeks 25% (27 of 107) were positive. This is an alarming spike in virus activity, and is spurring discussions on the possibility of elevated mosquito control measures.

Dr. Min-Lee Cheng, District Manager, said: "We are very concerned about the amount of mosquitoes and virus we are detecting in our environment. The District will be performing intensive searches in the areas of concern, and staff is discussing the potential of using ultra low volume applications to reduce adult mosquito populations. The situation is serious enough to warrant adulticiding to maintain public safety." Ultra Low Volume adulticiding is a ground-based pesticide application used to reduce adult mosquito population in the environment in order to curb the spread of West Nile virus. This type of pesticide application is used frequently in Northern California and other states, but rarely in Southern California, where vector control districts focus their efforts on the control of immature stages of mosquitoes. Though adulticide application is rare here, it is an important tool vector control districts have at their disposal when situations warrant it. The current population spike coupled with the high virus detection is serious enough that reducing adult mosquitoes to disrupt virus transmission may be necessary. Meanwhile, Vector Control staff will be scouring the neighborhoods in an attempt to locate any standing water sources or other potential mosquito habitat.

The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is urging residents to take personal protective measures seriously, and use those measures daily to reduce their chance of being bitten by mosquitoes. Perform a weekly check around your property to locate and remove any standing water and keep the street gutters in front of your property free of debris to allow water to flow freely, these are the places where mosquitoes lay their eggs and breed.

Also using a CDC recommended repellent is crucial during evening hours spent outdoors. Repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 are the most effective and most tested repellents available. Brian Reisinger, Community Outreach Coordinator, said: “We implore our residents to use a repellent any time you plan on being outdoors at dusk and dawn. Repellents are available at drugstores, camping supply stores, and online. It only takes a few seconds to apply, and it can save your life.”

If you are having problems with mosquitoes or know of a source that cannot be easily removed please call the District at 909-635-0307 or online at www.wvmvcd.org. District technicians are here to help and to minimize the threat of mosquito-borne disease.



This map displays the current areas of concern based on WVMVCD trapping.