



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

43-420 Trader Place • Indio, CA 92201 • (760) 342-8287 • Fax (760) 342-8110

E-mail: CVmosquito@cvmvcd.org • Website: www.cvmvcd.org

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Jill Oviatt
Public Information Manager
(760) 342-8287 or (760) 289-9298
Email: joviatt@cvmvcd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 17, 2013

MOSQUITOES INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN 4 MORE TRAPS IN PALM SPRINGS

District responds with ultra low volume ground applications and barrier treatments

INDIO, CA, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013: Several neighborhoods in Palm Springs are seeing a spike in West Nile virus (WNV) transmission. Four more samples of mosquitoes taken from traps in Palm Springs have tested positive for West Nile virus. The traps were located near the intersections of East Paseo El Mirador and Pasatiempo Road, East Cottonwood Road and North Via Miraleste, East Via Altamira and North Indian Canyon Drive, and East Vista Chino and North Palm Canyon Drive.

This brings the total number of WNV-positive mosquito samples in Palm Springs to eight this year. Last year, no mosquito samples tested positive for WNV in Palm Springs. The total number of WNV-positive mosquitoes in Coachella Valley is now 41. There were 109 WNV-positive mosquitoes detected across the Valley at this time last year. There have been no human WNV cases in the Coachella Valley so far this year, however, there have been 117 WNV human cases detected in California in 23 counties.

In response to the continued transmission in Palm Springs and in an effort to protect Palm Springs residents from developing what can be a serious and even deadly disease, the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District will perform barrier treatments in and around residential areas where positive samples were detected. A light mist approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and used frequently by public health agencies will be applied on vegetation where mosquitoes hide and rest. These treatments will be carried out September 18 and 19, weather permitting.

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In addition, District technicians will conduct ground ultra low volume (ULV) adulticiding applications in the areas bounded by East Vista Chino, Avenida de Los Caballeros, Mel Avenue, and Chaparral Road starting Wednesday, September 18, for three consecutive mornings 3-6:30 a.m., weather permitting. Residents and pets should remain indoors and keep windows closed and window-unit air conditioners off during and for 30 minutes following fogging. Signs will be posted along both routes informing residents of the control efforts. Final route maps for both treatments will be posted to the District website <http://www.cvmvcd.org/adulticiding.htm>

Postcards alerting residents to be extra cautious and search for breeding sites in their own yards were distributed on September 14 to residents within a mile-radius of the traps in Palm Springs where the infected mosquitoes were found. We encourage residents to take the following actions to help reduce the threat of WNV in the Valley.

Residents can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by following the 3 D's of WNV prevention:

- 1. Dump/Drain** – Eliminate standing water because that's where mosquitoes breed.
- 2. Dusk/Dawn** - Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.
- 3. Defend** - Apply insect repellents with EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET and Picaridin and wear long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Utilize properly fitted and well maintained screens on windows and doors around your home.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals, including sentinel chickens, through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most individuals infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. However, young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of experiencing more severe symptoms when infected. Anyone with symptoms should contact their health care provider.

Please contact the District at (760) 342-8287 or (888) 343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, report neglected pools or standing water where mosquitoes breed, and report dead birds. Visit us online at www.cvmvcd.org to obtain more information and submit service requests.

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