



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

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TRUCK APPLICATIONS TO TARGET MOSQUITO LARVAE IN INDIO

Residents urged to help reduce mosquitoes by dumping all standing water on property

INDIO, CA, JUNE 20, 2018: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District will conduct a truck-mounted larval mosquito control treatment in Indio neighborhoods where invasive *Aedes* mosquito detections continue. *Aedes aegypti* were first detected there in October 2016. The operation is scheduled for the morning of June 27, between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m., weather permitting. If the application is not carried out on June 27, it will be conducted the following morning on June 28 during the same time period. The application area is bordered by Monroe Street, Crest Avenue, Avenue 44, and Jackson Street.

“The goal is two-fold,” said Jill Oviatt, Public Information Manager. “We want to knock down the number of invasive mosquitoes that are capable of transmitting serious viruses, including chikungunya, dengue, and Zika, as well as reduce the population of local mosquitoes, which can infect people with viruses we see annually in the Valley, such as West Nile and St. Louis encephalitis.”

While there have been no reports of local transmission to humans from invasive mosquitoes in California, keeping invasive mosquito populations low is key to reducing future risk of local transmission. In addition, incessant daytime biting by invasive mosquitoes reduces the quality of life for residents who live in *Aedes*-infested neighborhoods.

District staff have conducted more than 2,000 door-to-door inspections, resident education events, and carried out both larval and adult mosquito control at properties where necessary. Despite these efforts, detections of both invasive and native mosquito species continue. The native mosquito species, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, is capable of transmitting West Nile and St. Louis encephalitis viruses to people. In 2015, 38 mosquito samples tested positive for West Nile virus in Indio alone.

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Aerial applications targeting mosquito larvae were conducted in the same area in early 2017. While the numbers were reduced temporarily, following the application, they have gone back up. Truck-mounted applications are being used this year in an effort to achieve the same effectiveness in reducing mosquitoes, but at a lower cost and with less disruption to area residents.

Larval control targets immature mosquitoes in the water using a naturally occurring bacterium to kill mosquito larvae before they emerge into biting adults. The product used in this application, is the same product used last year, VectoBac® WDG, is environmentally friendly, approved for application on organic crops, and has no effect on people or pets at the amounts used for mosquito control. It is registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The products are applied according to label instructions by trained and certified technicians. Although the District's mosquito control products pose low risk, some people may prefer to avoid exposure by staying inside or away from the area during and for 30 minutes following the application. Signs will be posted along roads informing residents of the control efforts. Residents are urged to check the District website for details of the application routes and times at <http://www.cvmvcd.org/controlactivities.htm>.

Mosquito prevention is a community problem and a community responsibility. The District is urging residents to do their part to eliminate stagnant water around the home. Working together will increase our chances of ridding the mosquito from our community. Removing mosquito breeding sources is the best long term solution to reduce mosquito breeding on your property and the risk of disease transmission in your neighborhood.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home:

- **Drain Standing Water.** Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places for mosquitoes to breed by draining/discarding items that hold water, such as old tires, buckets, and empty flower pots. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty water from saucers under pots and water-holding plants such as bromeliads, and regularly change the water in root plant cuttings (both indoors and outdoors). Change water and scrub clean wading pools, birdbaths, and pet bowls at least weekly.
- **Install or Repair Screens.** Keep mosquitoes out with tight-fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites:

- **Apply Insect Repellent.** Use repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)], or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label.
- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from skin.
- **Avoid the outdoors when mosquitoes are active.** Dawn and dusk are peak biting times for mosquitoes that transmit West Nile and St. Louis encephalitis viruses. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities during that time. Be aware of day-time biting mosquitoes and report them to the District.

Please contact the District at (760) 342-8287 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, report neglected pools or standing water, and report dead birds. For more information, visit www.cvmvcd.org.

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