



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DAVID POMAVILLE, DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NEWS RELEASE

Public Health Communication Unit
559-600-3200

Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District
Steve Mulligan 559-896-1085

First 2015 West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes in Fresno County

West Nile Virus positive mosquito samples have been identified in Fresno County for the first time in 2015. The Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District has notified the Fresno County Department of Public Health of the positive test results provided by the California Department of Public Health.

Non-human West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has been reported in California this year. Statewide in 2014, a total of 801 human cases of West Nile Virus were reported with 31 deaths. Fresno County reported 43 human cases with 0 deaths in 2014.

"With evidence of West Nile Virus activity once again present, it is important that residents take personal precautions to protect against mosquito bites and be vigilant in eliminating mosquito-breeding (water) sources around homes," states Steve Mulligan, District Manager of the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District. "We ask that people report any mosquito problems and unmaintained swimming pools to their local mosquito abatement district office."

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. Over 3,000 neglected swimming pools have been reported in Fresno County.
- Get FREE mosquito fish for backyard ponds or horse troughs from mosquito abatement districts. Call 559-896-1085 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 or visit www.mosquitobuzz.net and/or www.fresnomosquito.org 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 1-877-968-2473.

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Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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