



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
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[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

**May 22, 2015**

**Contact:**

Cei Kratz – District Manager  
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **Happy Mosquito-Free Memorial Day Weekend**

Lancaster, CA – Memorial Day is a day to remember those who have died while serving in the military service. It also marks the unofficial start of summer and people typically get together for BBQs and fun outdoor activities.

To avoid becoming the main course for some hungry mosquitoes, the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District recommends to protect yourself and your loved-ones with insect repellent while outdoors in the evening.

“Personal protection and removing potential mosquito breeding sites are the best way to avoid mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus”, said District Manager Cei Kratz. “There is no treatment or cure for this virus, so prevention is key.”

The Centers for Disease Control and prevention recommends using repellents that contain DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 to best protect you and your family from mosquito bites. Be sure to read the label thoroughly and apply the repellent according to directions.

The District will be conducting an aerial survey of the area in the beginning of June to find unmaintained swimming pools that can create tremendous mosquito populations, if gone untreated. The technicians have already started to check and treat pools that have been a problem in the past.

As of 5/20/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity in 34 dead birds, and 17 mosquito samples from 10 Counties in California. Last year the Antelope Valley recorded WNV in two people, 5 dead birds, 4 mosquito samples, and 29 sentinel chickens.

More tips to keep mosquitoes away and stay safe:

- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers or thunder showers
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Keep screen doors and windows in good repair and close them
- Don't use bug zappers near your patio – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

To stay up-to-date on new WNV activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information check out our website at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.

Also remember to:

- Get FREE mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) for fish ponds, pools, and horse troughs.
- Vaccinate your horses properly.
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD.
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).