



**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

**July 14, 2014**

**Contact:**

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Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **First Signs of West Nile Virus for 2014 in Palmdale**

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District was informed that a dead bird found in Palmdale has tested positive for West Nile Virus. The dead raven was reported to the State’s Dead Bird Hotline by an observant resident near Avenue S and 10<sup>th</sup> Street East on July 1, 2014.

To report a dead bird people can either go online to [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) and fill out the form there, or they can call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).

“After the hotline staff determines that a bird qualifies for testing, they contact our office and we retrieve the bird and take samples, which are then sent to the lab at UC Davis,” said District Entomologist Karen Mellor. “This is a very important part of our mosquito-borne disease surveillance and we rely on residents to report dead birds for it to work.”

This week’s weather forecast calls for high temperatures and possible thunderstorms which creates perfect conditions for mosquitoes. District officials remind people to do their part in minimizing mosquitoes by dumping out any water that might have collected after the rain.

As of 7/11/14 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity in 537 dead birds, 520 mosquito samples, and 9 sentinel chickens from 29 Counties. There have also been 9 human cases identified from 5 Counties.

West Nile Virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Although most people that are infected do not show any symptoms, West Nile Virus is a potentially debilitating disease. Even 'mild' cases of West Nile Fever can cause patients enormous pain and discomfort for months.

To keep mosquitoes away and stay safe, follow these tips:

- Follow the 3 D's (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- 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

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) or check us out online at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org), like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), or follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.