



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
42624 6<sup>th</sup> St. East  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(661) 942 – 2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

For Immediate Release

**August 11, 2015**

**Contact:**

Cei Kratz – District Manager  
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **Recent Rains Increase Mosquito Numbers**

Lancaster, CA – The recent rains created standing water in areas that had been dry for a long time. Some of those have dried up by now, but others remain unnoticed, creating the perfect mosquito habitat. The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District reports that the number of mosquitoes caught in traps throughout the valley have increased since the thunderstorms.

The District reminds residents to check their property for any standing water. Even the small amount of water on top of a plastic bag that might have blown into the yard and is hiding under a bush can hold enough water for mosquito larvae to thrive. A swimming pool that has previously been dry also needs to be pumped out again.

A fly-over conducted earlier this year identified about 700 swimming pools that appeared suspect for mosquito breeding. The AVMVCD technicians are currently inspecting those pools to make sure the owners either clean or drain them to avoid mosquito problems.

“So far this year we have not seen any West Nile Virus activity in the Antelope Valley,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Unfortunately we are not out of the woods, yet. August and September are typically the months with the highest virus transmission.”

As of 8/7/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 37 Counties in 362 dead birds, 1,333 mosquito samples, and 90 sentinel chickens, as well as 18 human cases with 1 fatality.

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.

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.

More tips to keep mosquitoes away and stay safe:

- 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).