

Orange County Vector Control District

For Immediate Release
Thursday, July 01, 2010



Contact:

Michael Hearst
Phone: (714) 971-2421 Ext. 129
Fax: (714) 971-3940
e-mail: mhearst@ocvcd.org

Garden Grove, CA. The Orange County Vector Control District Issues Holiday Reminder. The Orange County Vector Control District has confirmed two West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples collected in the city of Westminster on June 17, 2010. On May 28 of this year, the District confirmed its first WNV positive dead bird was a crow collected in Garden Grove. Even though this evidence comes later than in previous years, it should still serve as a reminder that WNV is here. Over this Fourth of July weekend and for the rest of the summer, we need to continue our efforts to avoid mosquito bites and reduce mosquito populations.

The District is asking the public to participate in the dead bird collection program and to please call the District if they do see dead birds. "By having active public participation by reporting dead birds, staff is able to better track the timing of virus activity. Birds, especially crows, are far too mobile to rely on them for determining where the virus is active" stated Robert Cummings, Director of Scientific and Technical Services

The District recently completed aerial surveillance of the northern part of the County. Over 3,000 potential problem sites were identified. It is easy to understand that a pool in the backyard of an empty home in foreclosure will be neglected. However financially stressed homeowners may continue to own and live in their home, but they have cut back on pool and pond maintenance. These water features can become excellent locations for mosquito breeding right in a residential neighborhood. The public should report any neglected pools or ponds they are aware of. Reports can be made anonymously. The District may already know about the problem and may have even treated the site, but it only takes a minute to check the District records.

During the holiday weekend the District urges the public to be on the lookout for potential mosquito sources and to take the proper precautions to protect themselves from mosquitoes and mosquito bites.

- Make sure all of your window and door screens are in good repair.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants when outside when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Lemon Oil of Eucalyptus, or IR 3535.
- Contact the Orange County Vector Control District if you are having a problem with mosquitoes or see any dead birds.

Please report dead birds or potential mosquito habitat to the Orange County Vector Control District. 714-971-2421 or 949-654-2421. If a bird tests positive for WNV, the reporting party will be notified.
