



NUMBER: 09-18  
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

DATE: September 18, 2009  
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## THREAT OF WEST NILE VIRUS PERSISTS WITH FALL WEATHER IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

**Stanislaus County** - With fall weather patterns beginning to develop, West Nile Virus activity continues to be a threat throughout Stanislaus County. Health officials are urging everyone to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites and prevent West Nile Virus infection.

"The changes in weather and harvesting of farm crops create just the right environment for mosquitoes to begin moving into and around residences and have promoted mosquito breeding in our communities," said Jerry Davis, Manager at the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District. "Everyone needs to be aware of this and needs to wear insect repellent anytime they go outdoors."

The District has been busy spraying mosquitoes using ground spray equipment and aircraft. The Mosquito Abatement Districts use aircraft in rural locations and ground equipment for more precision spraying in urbanized areas. The Districts continue to be concerned with neglected swimming pools even in cooler weather. The Districts also provides mosquito fish, free of charge, to put in ornamental ponds and other backyard locations.

Insect repellent is especially important when mosquitoes are most active just after sundown and just before sunrise. To be effective, repellent should contain DEET, Picaridin, or lemon oil of Eucalyptus. When you must go outdoors, wear long pants and sleeves, and other protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites.

The best way to keep your environment clear of mosquito-breeding areas is to simply eliminate sources of standing water. Some examples of this include: not over-watering your lawn or garden, changing water in pet dishes and bird baths on a regular basis, and dumping any standing water out of backyard toys, flower pots and garbage cans.

Health officials announced a total of nine humans and two horses were confirmed with WNV infections in Stanislaus County.

For questions or concerns, please contact the local mosquito abatement district. In Stanislaus County, north of the Tuolumne River call East Side Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 522-4098. All other residents call Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 634-1234.

The public can report dead birds to the California Department of Health Services by logging on to <http://westnile.ca.gov/cfm/deadbird.cfm> or by calling toll-free 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).