



COUNTY OF VENTURA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/29/2017

Mosquito Season is Here

VENTURA, California –The Ventura County Environmental Health Division (Division) is advising the public to take precautions to protect against mosquito bites and remove standing water sources from in and around their homes. The Division monitors and controls mosquito breeding at sources throughout Ventura County. However, the Division does rely on the public to report mosquito activity and report new breeding sites.

The public can call the mosquito complaint HOTLINE at **805/658-4310**. The Division also provides mosquito-eating fish to the public for use in non-natural water features. To request mosquito-eating fish call **805/662-6582**. To report dead birds to the California Department of Public Health for West Nile virus testing, call 877/WNV-Bird (**877/968-2473**).

Many reports are being received about other insects that are often mistaken for mosquitoes, such as gnats and crane flies which do not transmit diseases to humans. Division staff can assist with identifying mosquito species and other insects.

The Division also advises the public to be alert for two invasive (non-native) mosquito species that have recently been found in several areas of California. They are *Aedes aegypti* (yellow fever mosquito) and *Aedes albopictus* (Asian tiger mosquito) that have been known to carry several viruses, including Zika. These are small, aggressive, daytime biters mosquitoes with white stripes on their back and legs. Their eggs can survive being dry for months and hatch in a teaspoon of water, so eliminating potential breeding sources is critical.

Minimize your exposure to mosquito transmitted diseases: eliminate any standing water from your property no matter how small; make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens without holes; when outdoors, wear protective clothing and apply an EPA approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. If you need to store water in rain barrels or other containers for longer than a week, make sure they are mosquito proof by covering all openings with tight fitting lids or 1/16-inch fine mesh screen.

To obtain additional information, visit:

<http://vcrma.org/envhealth/technical-services/vector/index.html>

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