

Pesticides and Mosquito Control



Our District follows an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that is an ecosystem-based strategy focusing on long-term prevention of mosquitoes through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, and pesticides. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of eradicating only mosquitoes. Pesticides are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

Will the District conduct aerial spraying for mosquitoes?

If West Nile virus is detected in the community, the District's initial response will be to intensify our efforts to reduce mosquito breeding sites and increase the levels of larviciding in those areas in which West Nile virus has been found. Reducing the adult mosquito population with pesticides (adulticides) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be done if necessary to prevent human illness or to suppress a heavy nuisance infestation of mosquitoes. The decision to spray, either on the ground or by air, will be based on surveillance information or the documentation of West Nile virus activity at a level that indicates a threat to human health. Spraying will be concentrated in areas most at risk for disease occurrence and will be conducted by certified and licensed applicators. The District's aggressive campaign against mosquito breeding areas is intended to minimize the need to use adulticides.

What pesticides will you use?

In the case of adulticiding we will use botanical insecticides (plant derived compounds) that

include pyrethrins or synthetic pyrethroids, with or without piperonyl butoxide. In situations where botanical insecticides would not be effective, we may use Malathion or Naled. All of the products we use are approved by the EPA and applied according to label directions by our trained and certified technicians.

What risks are there to the residents of Contra Costa County?

The risks to the public and to the environment are very low. Mosquito adulticides are applied as ultra-low volume (ULV) sprays. ULV applications involve small quantities of active ingredient in relation to the size of the area treated, typically less than 2 ounces per acre, which minimizes exposure and risk to people and the environment.

Should I take steps to reduce exposure to pesticides during mosquito control spraying?

Generally, there is no need to relocate during mosquito control spraying. The pesticides have been evaluated for this use and found to pose minimal risks to human health and the environment when used according to label directions. Although mosquito control pesticides pose low risks, some people may prefer to avoid or further minimize exposure. Some common sense steps to help reduce possible exposure to pesticides include:

- ◆ Pay attention to the local media for announcements about spraying and remain indoors during applications in the immediate area.
- ◆ People who suffer from chemical sensitivities or feel spraying may aggravate a preexisting

health condition, may consult their physician or local health department and take special measures to avoid exposure.

- ◆ Close windows and turn off window-unit air conditioners when spraying is taking place in the immediate area.
- ◆ Keep children's toys indoors.

Since the effects of the ground and aerial spraying dissipate in a few hours, it is not necessary to wash off outdoor furniture or playground equipment before use, although doing so will not diminish the effectiveness of the pesticide applied.

Información en Español

¡Qué No Le Pique el Mosquito! ¡Protéjase!

El Virus del Nilo Occidental ha llegado a Estados Unidos y los mosquitos pueden infectarlo.

- ✓ Evite que el agua se estanque en su propiedad. Los mosquitos se reproducen en cualquier charco de agua.
- ✓ Deshágase o vacíe recipientes que contengan agua.
- ✓ Limpie los bajantes de su casa para permitir el desagüe de agua de lluvia.
- ✓ Mantenga el agua de estanques ornamentales circulando, llénelos con peces que puede recibir gratis llamando al (925) 685-9301.
- ✓ Limite su tiempo afuera cuando hay muchos mosquitos alrededor.
- ✓ Si sale al aire libre use camisa de manga larga y pantalones.
- ✓ Use repelente de insectos con el ingrediente DEET.
- ✓ Arregle hoyos en las mallas y asegúrese que están bien adheridas a las puertas y ventanas.

Para mas información visite a los Servicios de Salud del Condado de Contra Costa en el www.cchealth.org.



Vector. Any insect or other arthropod, rodent or other animal of public health significance capable of causing human discomfort, injury, or capable of harboring or transmitting the causative agents of human disease.



WEST NILE VIRUS

In 1926, residents rallied together to form the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District to control mosquitoes responsible for epidemics of encephalitis and malaria, and to relieve severe outbreaks of saltwater marsh mosquitoes. During peak mosquito season, waterfront areas and schools were closed, recreational areas were abandoned, and realtors had difficulty selling homes. Some areas in the county were declared uninhabitable.

For over 75 years, our District has steadfastly surveyed and treated thousands upon thousands of mosquito breeding sources throughout the county, while considering, maintaining, and even enhancing the environment. Our program has proven so successful that we have nearly become a victim of our own success

through the process: recent studies illustrate that seventy-two percent of our county's residents think of mosquitoes as a mere nuisance and not as a health threat, and 63 percent of residents are unaware of mosquito control measures.

Today, our county is not only habitable, but encompasses a rich diversity of economic, agricultural, and recreational amenities. West Nile virus calls upon us to remain diligent in our efforts to control mosquitoes, steadfast in our resolve to protect our residents, and reminds us that mosquito control is as important today as it has ever been.

Información en Español

¡Qué No Le Pique el Mosquito! ¡Protéjase!

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SERVICES PROVIDED

- Mosquitoes Inspection and control.
- Mosquitofish FREE mosquitofish for private ponds or horse troughs.
- Rats & Mice Home or business services.
- Skunks Traps loaned and skunks removed.
- Yellowjackets and Africanized Bees Ground-nest and swarm control.
- Ticks FREE Lyme disease testing on ticks.
- Household Pest I.D. FREE house pest identification.

All of our programs and services are funded by tax dollars, so when you call for our services, *there is no charge!*

155 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520 ◆ (925) 685-9301 ◆ www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District

West Nile Virus References

Medical Emergency: Call 911

Non-Emergency Medical Questions:

Contra Costa Health Services
(925) 313-6740
www.ccpbublichealth.org
or contact your primary care physician

Mosquito Problems or General Questions:

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District
155 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520
(925) 685-9301
www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us

To Report Dead Birds:

West Nile Dead Bird Hotline
1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473)
www.westnile.ca.gov

West Nile Virus in Horses or Horse Vaccine:

Contact your local veterinarian or
CDFA Animal Health Branch
(916) 654-1447
www.cdca.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm

General Information:

Centers for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/skeeters.htm>

National Pesticide Information Center:

<http://npic.orst.edu/wnv/>

