



MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District Confirms One Mosquito Pool to Test Positive for West Nile Virus in Marin County and One Mosquito Pool to Preliminarily Test Positive in Sonoma County

(Cotati), California September 29th, 2006 the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Marin and Sonoma County. WNV is a viral disease of birds that can be transmitted to humans by a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird. **The positive pool was collected from Marin County in the Smith Ranch Road area: this is the second pool to test positive from this site. The Sonoma County Preliminarily Positive pool was found in the area of Morris St. in Sebastopol.** (Mosquitoes are trapped and collected from the field. The collected females are then pooled together by species. Each sample contains a minimum of one to a maximum of 50 mosquitoes per sample.)

The District is checking all known mosquito breeding sites and setting adult mosquito traps in the areas where the positive mosquitoes have been found. No adult mosquito control is scheduled at this time do to weather conditions; however adult mosquito control may take place early next week depending on adult trap results and favorable weather conditions. Posters are being placed in both areas warning residents that the virus is present and to take protective measures. The preliminary positive mosquito pool in Sebastopol is located near several schools and as a result 2,000 WNV flyers have been sent to Sebastopol schools to be sent home with students today.

This year, 17 birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Marin and Sonoma Counties (12 in Sonoma County and 5 in Marin County) along with 1 Western Gray Squirrel in Marin County, 2 mosquito pools in Marin County and 1 preliminary mosquito pool in Sonoma County; 2 horse deaths

(1 in Sonoma County and 1 in Marin County), 1 human case in Marin County and two sentinel chickens in Marin County. The detection of WNV in wild birds and other animals indicates the virus is present in both counties.

We ask that the public remain diligent in their own mosquito control efforts by checking their yards for breeding sources since they are generally the main source for mosquitoes.

Symptoms of WNV range from mild flu-like conditions, such as fever, headache, and nausea to a stiff neck, restlessness, stupor, delirium, and convulsions. Most cases are mild; however, fatalities can occur in extreme cases.

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District along with Dr. Fred Schwartz, Marin County Public Health Officer and Dr. Leigh Hall, Sonoma County Deputy Health Officer are reminding citizens to take these protective measures:

- Avoid being outside when mosquitoes are most active, between dusk and dawn.
- When engaging in outdoor activities, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and apply insect repellent according to label instructions. Products containing the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin are the most effective, while oil of lemon eucalyptus is another option.
- Screen all windows and make sure the screens are in good repair.
- Cover septic tanks and screen roof vent pipes.
- Identify and eliminate all sources of standing water around your property.
- Remove water from rain gutters, boat covers, tires, tree holes, plastic containers.
- Report dead crows, ravens, magpies, jays and raptors that have been dead for less than 24 hrs.

Online reporting is preferred at <http://westnile.ca.gov/deadbird.cfm> .The toll-free line to report dead birds is 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).