

Integrated Valencia County Mosquito and Vector Control Program

Environmental Health Department 2011

The typical range of a mosquito will be one to three miles therefore, most mosquitoes are born at or near home. Help keep the populations down with assistance of this check list.

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To Do: Property Maintenance Checklist

West Nile virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. The virus is carried long distances by infected birds and then spread locally by mosquitoes that bite these birds. Drought conditions may make it worse since birds and mosquitoes will share the same few watering holes.

Mosquitoes need still water to lay their eggs, which develop in 7 to 10 days. If we can eliminate or treat standing water we can keep many mosquitoes from breeding in the first place. It is very rare to catch the virus, and most infected people will not even get sick or will only experience mild flu-like symptoms. However, West Nile virus can be fatal especially to people over 50 years of age. So protect yourself from mosquito bites before doing any outdoor maintenance.

Animals- Eliminate mosquito breeding areas from livestock pens. Keep fresh water in troughs or use dunks, which are safe for animals.

Birdbaths- Clean or hose out birdbaths weekly.

BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* - A natural bacteria that kills mosquito and fly larvae yet is non-toxic to animals when used properly. Kills larvae developing in water. (See Dunks below.)

Chainlink fence- Cover chainlink fence posts with metal or plastic caps since they are hollow pipes.

Clothing- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when working around mosquito infested areas.

Containers- Cover containers or turn upside down so that they do not hold water including: ashtrays, boxes, buckets, cans, cups, pots and trash, barbecues, plant trays.

Dawn/Dusk- The times of day that biting mosquitoes are most active since they avoid the heat of day.

Dead birds- Pick up dead birds with a shovel or gloves. Double bag in plastic and dispose in trash. Dead birds should not be handled directly in order to avoid exposure to the virus. Wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.

DEET- The active ingredient in insect repellent.

Drains- Keep outdoor drains flowing freely.

Dripping water- Fix leaks around faucets, air conditioner units and hoses.

Dumpsters- Keep dumpsters covered, and remove any water inside and under dumpster.

Dunks- Dunks are donut-shaped pellets that kill mosquito larvae but are non-toxic to animals. They dissolve slowly in water. Available in hardware and garden stores. (See BTI above.)

Flat roofs- Inspect weekly to remove any puddles. Fix leaks from air conditioners and pipes. Keep rain gutters clear of debris and flowing freely.

Irrigation- Do not overwater. Eliminate any areas of excess standing water weekly.

Landscaping- Remove plastic sheeting under bark or rock and replace with landscape fabric that prevents weeds yet allows water through.

Lighting- Check garden lights and eliminate water from tops of fixtures and from inside floodlights.

Loading docks- Keep loading docks clear of containers or boxes that can hold water. Remove old tires. Eliminate standing water and clear drains.

Machinery- Examine machinery and clean any areas that hold water.

Pipefittings- Unused pipes should be kept inside or turned over so that no water accumulates.

Playgrounds- Drill drainage holes in tire swings and playground equipment that holds

water.

Ponds- Stock with mosquito eating fish. Use mosquito dunks or BTI in ponds and larger bodies of water. Follow instructions for safe use.

Potted plants- Do not overwater plants. Empty saucers weekly or flush with garden hose. Drill small drainage holes in outdoor saucers.

Pools/Spas- Maintained pools and whirlpool spas are not a hazard since pool chemicals and filters kill any larvae. Use dunks in deserted pools and spas. Dump kid's wading pools.

Rainbarrels- Cover tightly with screening.

Raingutters- Keep gutters clear of debris, which can become breeding areas of standing water.

Sculptures- Lawn ornaments should be checked for areas that hold water, and drained or flushed weekly.

Screens- Install and maintain tight-fitting window and door screens.

Shrubbery- Trim and thin shrubs and bushy plants since they can be mosquito hiding areas.

Streams- Keep water flowing freely. Remove clumps of vegetation and weeds that might cause stagnant pools of water.

Swamp Coolers- Clean and flush trays with clean water, use Mosquito Dunks, fix all leaks.

Tool sheds- Keep shed roofs maintained and eliminate water around foundation.

Tires- Properly dispose of old tires. Drill drainage holes in tires used in retaining walls and in landscaping.

Trash cans- Keep trash cans covered and clean weekly. Punch holes in trash containers to facilitate drainage. Remove buckets and containers from around trash areas.

Trees- Eliminate water from dead tree stumps and hollow areas of live trees. Fill

cavities with sand and flush weekly with a hose.

Trash- Remove anything that can hold water including cans, cups, tin foil, plastic, paper since mosquito larvae can grow.

Umbrellas- Table umbrella bases often are filled with water. Cap tightly, seal with duct tape or fill with sand and cover tightly.

Weeds- Remove weeds, especially around areas close to water.

Wheelbarrows- Store wheelbarrows vertically or turned over to prevent water accumulation.