



September, 2020

The Valley Buzz

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:



As of September 25th, the District has detected twelve mosquito samples positive for West Nile virus.

For the state of California, as of September 18th, there have been 2,126 West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples from 27 counties. In 2020, there have been 396 St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) positive mosquito samples from 9 counties.

While the virus activity is significantly reduced this year, the activity and spread of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes continues to rise. These mosquitoes are aggressive day-time biting, backyard breeders. If you are experiencing bites in the lower leg and ankle area, please contact the District. We can help!

For weekly status updates, connect with the District on Facebook or Twitter, or go to www.wvmvcd.org.

Dr. Michelle Brown

TECHNICIAN'S TIPS:

BMPs: the Secret World of Underground Mosquito Breeding

Stormwater management devices, known as BMPs (Best Management Practices) are a collection of devices used to mitigate the amount of organics and trash that go into the storm drain system.

These can be simple things like swales, or complex underground vaults with multiple filtering systems. Unfortunately, a common factor with all of these is that without proper maintenance, they will hold water. The standing water and organic material make perfect spots for mosquitoes to lay their eggs and have their larvae develop. The Technicians are monitoring approximately 1,150 BMPs throughout the District. With so many BMPs, you can see how we like to call these Big Mosquito Places!



Technicians carefully open, monitor, and treat an underground BMP. A close picture shows how trash and other contaminants can pile up in these devices.

FROM OUR LABORATORY:

Life in the Lab: a Scope, a Key, and Patience!

Identifying mosquitoes is an important part of surveillance life, knowing what species are out in our District allows us to target them efficiently. After collecting mosquitoes from traps we set out, the mosquitoes must first be knocked out, then visually and manually sorted into groups underneath a microscope! The District is lucky to have some of the best lab staff around, so we are up to the daunting task.

Once we know what types of mosquitoes we are dealing with and what kind of numbers there are in an area, we can use that information to better equip our technicians to find and reduce the mosquito populations in an area.



Laboratory staff use these tools to go from the mess above to useable data about our mosquito populations!

OUTREACHING OUT TO YOU!

Choosing a repellent

One of the most asked questions we get is, "What can I do to keep mosquitoes from biting me?". The answer we give is, "Use a good repellent". But what does that really mean?

We recommend using mosquito repellents that are applied to the skin that contain the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, PMD, 2-undecanone, or IR3535. These are ingredients that have been thoroughly tested, are EPA registered, and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control to be the longest lasting and most effective.

While there seem to be almost a dizzying array of bug repellents on the market, those without these ingredients are sold without EPA registration and have not gone through EPA testing for human safety and effectiveness. If you're getting bit by mosquitoes you can start here, <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you> and get yourself a good repellent!

Look for repellent with one of these **active** ingredients

- ✓ DEET
- ✓ Picaridin (known as KBR 3023 and icardin outside the US)
- ✓ IR3535
- ✓ Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE)
- ✓ Para-menthane-diol (PMD)
- ✓ 2-undecanone



While we face many challenges in public health, we are confident that with your continued support, cooperation, and friendship, we can continue to protect our residents in this vast and ever-changing landscape.

Thank you for supporting us over the years!

Contact Us
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Connect with us

