



WEST VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL



The Valley Buzz!

SIT Back In Action!

2024 was the first full year the District used Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) in the form of X-ray sterilized male mosquitoes as a regular means of managing *Aedes aegypti*. Using a targeted dispersal, we treated 25 sites throughout our cities and released over 110,000 sterile males! We were thrilled with the results, seeing almost 50% reductions at those treated sites. Not only did we see big reductions in mosquito populations, but we also had a 45% reduction in Aedes related calls versus 2023!

For this year, we are already starting to release sterile males in addition to early placement of In2Care stations, population monitoring, and direct larvicidal treatments to stem populations from ramping up quickly. We are extremely pleased to see positive results with the addition of SIT into our Integrated Pest Management program and look forward to reducing the threat of mosquito-borne disease for our residents.



Laboratory Staff releasing sterile males in neighborhoods

Early In2Care Placement

In2care stations, an attract and kill device, have proven to work well for us in reducing not only *Aedes* mosquitoes, but our native *Culex* as well. In2Care stations work by appearing as an attractive place for mosquitoes to lay their eggs.

When a mosquito enters the station and lays their eggs, they pick up an insecticide on their bodies that they can spread to other water sources where they may lay eggs. Eggs laid in the trap that emerge are quickly killed in the larval stage. Stations are placed in strategic locations in all our cities before mosquito season peaks to slow mosquito breeding and expansion.

In2Care stations are also used all throughout the mosquito season in response to population monitoring and when routine inspections in response to service requests show a residence would be a good spot for the device. Early and frequent measures to reduce mosquito populations have proven to be a solid strategy. If you are experiencing mosquitoes, please call us to schedule an inspection and we can find a way to best help you!



Technician inspecting and refilling In2Care Station

Annual Swimming Pool Surveillance

The District conducts an aerial survey yearly to locate suspected unkempt swimming pools, one of the most notorious neighborhood mosquito breeding sources. One unmaintained pool filled with dirty water can release thousands of adult mosquitoes every week! Flights are conducted using a fixed wing airplane and photos are vetted for possible unmaintained status.

We then send a letter with instructions on how our residents can fix the issue and how to contact us when the pool is clean or drained. We are grateful to our residents who help minimize the risk of mosquito breeding in their neighborhoods by reducing sites, especially swimming pools! If you receive a letter, all you need to do is bring the pool back to operable conditions or drain it, send us a picture via text, and you are all set!



Technician inspecting unmaintained swimming pool



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