



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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California Mosquito Awareness Week: April 17th-23rd

Days are heating up and the spring is upon us. As we move closer toward the summer the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control (SMVCD) personnel have been monitoring mosquito populations, tracking any potential disease occurrences, and treating areas of standing water to prevent mosquito breeding and reduce adult mosquito populations before they emerge from the water.

Although the area is experiencing record drought and limited rain, this rarely relates to a lower concern with mosquito borne diseases, specifically West Nile virus (WNV). "I wish we could say with less water we will see less disease transmission," detailed Peter Bonkrude, District Manager. "Unfortunately, it appears that drought can accelerate disease transmission. When you have less water, the birds and mosquitoes will often share those dwindling resources, increasing the potential for transmission."

To raise awareness and educate Californians about the threat of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases, SMVCD and the California Legislature declared April 17th-23rd, 2022 as California Mosquito Awareness Week. To highlight the week, and get brochures, repellents, and information out to Shasta County residents, the Sundial Bridge in Redding, CA will be lit-up green on Thursday and Friday, April 21-22, 2022. On Friday, April 22, 2022 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm, join District staff at the Domke Plaza in front of the Sundial Bridge.

As the days become warmer and residents begin spending an increased amount of time outdoors during dusk and dawn, the risk of mosquito bites also increases. SMVCD is charged with protecting the health of the District residents from mosquito and vector-borne diseases, but they cannot do it alone. SMVCD staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by implementing the **4 Ds** of protection:

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Our Mission: "To protect the public's health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience and efficiency".

- **Drain** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, including old tires, buckets, and flowerpots and saucers. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- **Defend** yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **Dusk** or Dawn, avoid outside activities during peak mosquito feeding times.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

For more information about SMVCD's services, West Nile virus, or new emerging mosquito-borne diseases, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit www.ShastaMosquito.org.

2022 Shasta County West Nile virus activity: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **0** mosquito samples, and **0** humans tested positive for West Nile virus. California West Nile virus activity: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **2** mosquito samples, and **0** humans tested positive for West Nile virus.

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