

# THE VALLEY BUZZ

SEPTEMBER 2020



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



@avmosquito

## September Update



BY BRENN A BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Throughout the COVID-19 situation, mosquito control is still here for you! Our office is operating and our technicians are out in the field fulfilling our mission of mosquito control for the betterment of public health.

Some aspects of our operations such as private property inspections and community outreach events and presentations are still temporarily halted to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure for our staff members and the community. Our office is still closed to foot traffic for now, but is operating Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for phone calls or email correspondence.

The month of August was a busy one:

- 1.) We detected West Nile virus positive mosquito samples in several different areas across the Antelope Valley. There have been a total of nine WNV detections within District boundaries so far this 2020 season; some detections were near defunct pools.
- 2.) We identified invasive Aedes mosquitoes near 25th street East and Avenue R-8 in Palmdale as well as near 30th Street West and Avenue L in Lancaster.
- 3.) We have been experiencing very high trap counts in West Palmdale near Highland High school.
- 4.) The California Department of Public Health identified it's first West Nile virus death of the 2020 season, an older gentleman from South Los Angeles. Although this instance was not within our District boundaries, this reminds us that the threat of this disease is very real. Our hearts go out to this man and his family and friends.

View our current Press Releases at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org) and check out the tips below on how to stay safe this mosquito season. The District will keep the community up to date on any additional positive results as they occur.

### DID YOU KNOW?!

.....almost all of the mosquito nuisances in the Antelope Valley come from man-made sources!? We commonly hear that people think there are no mosquitoes in the desert.....



but that is untrue. Humans have the ability to manipulate and redirect water sources.....and in order to survive in this desert climate, we have done just that. we inadvertently create mosquito habitats (standing water) along the way through our farming, gardening, watering our lawns, having pools and ponds, letting containers fill with water and so on. Where there are humans, there is water.....and as we know, where there is water there are often mosquitoes. Look at the graphic below to see how many opportunities there are for you to breed mosquitoes in your yard!





# TECHNICIAN'S TIPS

STAY SAFE



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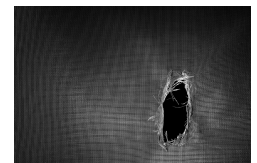
*"If you can interrupt the mosquito life-cycle at some point prior to the mosquitoes reaching adulthood you will greatly reduce the chance of creating a mosquito problem in your neighborhood!"*

**Contact us!**

M-F 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.  
661.942.2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

With the recent detections of West Nile virus and *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in the Antelope Valley, we would like to remind the community of some tips and pointers on how you can stay safe this mosquito season! Mosquitoes rely on water. They need it for every life-cycle stage for different reasons. In the egg, larval and pupal stages, they live and eat in the water. And then as flying adults, they once again return to the water to lay their eggs on the surface. Therefore, wherever there is standing water, there is the potential for mosquitoes to reproduce. This process takes about 5-7 days from start to finish. If you can interrupt the mosquito life-cycle at some point prior to the mosquitoes reaching adulthood (i.e. dumping out the larvae/pupae), you will greatly reduce the chance of creating a mosquito problem in your neighborhood!

- Check property for standing water at least once weekly and get rid of it. Be sure to remember things like buckets, birdbaths, wheelbarrows and children's toys
- When mosquitoes are active, use EPA registered insect repellents that contain one of these active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR3535 (Always follow label instructions)
- Make sure your screens on windows and doors are in good repair to avoid mosquitoes in the home
- Check around faucets and air conditioner units, and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)



**Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:**

[Leann@avmosquito.org](mailto:Leann@avmosquito.org)  
[avmosquito.org/contact-us.html](http://avmosquito.org/contact-us.html)