

# THE VALLEY BUZZ

MAY 2020



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



## May Update

BY BRENNAN BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

Spring has definitely sprung out here in the beautiful Antelope Valley. Our office is operating and our technicians are out in the field fulfilling our mission of mosquito control despite the challenges we face with the Covid-19 situation.

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 open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for phone calls or email correspondence.

As often happens in the springtime, we are noticing an abundance of calls regarding Crane Flies as well as finding large numbers of them in our traps. Just a reminder that Crane Flies are large, harmless flying insects that do not bite or transmit disease. Some people refer to them as 'Mosquito Eaters', but contrary to popular belief, they don't actually eat mosquitoes.

As mosquito season is now back in full swing, our trapping efforts are also in full swing. We are trapping mosquitoes to get a general idea of abundance around town as well as to test them for any disease presence. We will update the community with any positive discoveries as they occur.

### DID YOU KNOW?!

There are 4 main ingredients that are EPA approved to be effective mosquito repellents: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 and oil of lemon eucalyptus. Look for those main ingredients on the repellent label to be sure you are protected.





# TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



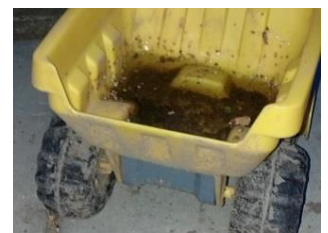
*Mosquitoes  
need two main  
things to thrive:  
warm weather  
and a source of  
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water.*

As we mentioned in April's Newsletter, mosquitoes need two main things to thrive: warm weather and a source of dirty stagnant water. The mosquito life cycle takes place over the course of a week in four stages: the adult mosquito lays her eggs on the surface of standing water, larvae hatch out into the water, eventually turn into pupae, and flying adults hatch out of the pupal casing and into the air. Once mosquitoes are flying adults, the females have the ability to bite and transmit diseases and are thus considered a public health nuisance.

Only female mosquitoes bite because they seek out nutrients in blood for egg creation. If you've ever been bitten by a pesky mosquito, you know it was a female! Since male mosquitoes don't make eggs, they don't seek out blood and don't even have a proper mouthpiece for biting. Both males and females rely on nectar and water for energy and hydration.

Our technicians commonly find mosquito breeding in various yard objects and containers that can hold standing water. Anything that can hold standing water for five or more days can breed mosquitoes, so even the most inconspicuous yard item can be a source of a mosquito nuisance.

Common items that our technicians find mosquito larvae in are: bird baths, pet water dishes, kids toys, buckets, flower pots and saucers, old tires, wheel barrows, kiddie pools and even tarps and trash! This is not only a nuisance and a public health threat to the homeowner, but also to the neighborhood.



The District recommends that yards are kept free of clutter or objects that can hold standing water. It is recommended to tip out all containers that do hold water, weekly. Whenever possible, store containers in a place where they can't fill up with water again. We also recommend refreshing your bird baths and pet water bowls at least weekly to interrupt the mosquito lifecycle and prevent them from taking up residence in your yard.

Happiness and health,  
The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

**Contact us!**  
M-F 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.  
661.942.2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

**[Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:](mailto:Leann@avmosquito.org)**

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