

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 3, 2007

MAILING ADDRESS
SACRAMENTO COUNTY
8631 BOND ROAD
ELK GROVE, CA 95624

YOLO COUNTY
1234 FORTNA AVENUE
WOODLAND, CA 95695

1.800.429.1022
FIGHTtheBITE.net

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FIGHT THE BITE THIS 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY!
--Protect Yourself And Your Family From Mosquitoes And West Nile Virus

ELK GROVE, Calif. – Warm weather and the sizzle of the barbeque attract thousands of local residents to parks, picnics and playgrounds this 4th of July holiday-but that's not all they will attract! The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District advises the community to protect itself this upcoming 4th of July holiday from mosquitoes and West Nile virus. "If you plan to be outside when mosquitoes are most active, specifically at dawn and dusk, make sure you apply an effective insect repellent such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. It is extremely important that you protect yourself and your family this holiday," said District Manager David Brown.

The District's **7Ds**: **DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions! **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. **DISTRICT** personnel are also available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022 or visiting the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

West Nile virus

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arboviral encephalitis in the United States. Originally discovered in Africa in 1937, WNV was first detected in the western hemisphere in 1999 in New York City. Since then it has caused seasonal epidemics of West Nile virus fever and severe neurological disease. West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds.

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2007 West Nile virus activity update

Level 2 - This year, **2** birds, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, 0 mosquito samples and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

2006 West Nile virus activity

Sacramento County: 16 humans, 1 horse, 89 dead birds, 34 mosquito samples and 13 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

Yolo County: 27 humans, 0 horses, 54 dead birds, 64 mosquito samples and 26 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

---MORE---

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To report a **dead bird or squirrel** call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Health Services online at westnile.ca.gov

The **Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District** provides mosquito and vector control services for Sacramento and Yolo counties.

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