

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FIGHT THE BITE DURING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
**--Use Mosquito Repellent to Prevent Mosquito Bites and West Nile Virus**

Elk Grove, Calif.— Tonight is National Night Out and many will be engaging in fun outdoor activities around dusk, a time of peak mosquito activity. The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District reminds the public to use an effective mosquito repellent to protect themselves. “We’re in the middle of mosquito season and it remains critical that people take proper precautions against mosquitoes and West Nile virus,” said David Brown, District Manager. “The threat to everyone is very real,” he added. Though National Night Out focuses on crime and drug prevention, mosquitoes will be focused on biting humans, so wearing an effective mosquito repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus is very important. For the past weeks, the District has distributed thousands of free mosquito repellent packets to various neighborhood associations, community groups and law enforcement agencies so they can be distributed to participants during National Night Out. Repellent is still available for any upcoming evening events, please contact the District if you are interested.

In recent weeks, infected birds, mosquito samples and sentinel chickens have been found in different areas of Sacramento and Yolo counties. Though no human cases have been registered in our area, a 59 year old man in neighboring San Joaquin County has contracted the virus. Public cooperation is needed to report dead birds, prevent mosquito breeding sites around the home and in reporting neglected swimming pools.

This National Night Out and during summer week’s ahead, practice the **District D’s of Mosquito Prevention: DRAIN** standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. **DEFEND** yourself by using an effective insect repellent. Make sure to follow label directions! **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. **DISTRICT** personnel are also available to address any mosquito problems. Call them at 1-800-429-1022 or visit [www.FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://www.FIGHTtheBITE.net)

**2009 West Nile virus activity update:**

**Level 3--Sacramento County: 8 dead birds, 1 sentinel chicken, 9 mosquito samples and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus.**

**Level 3--Yolo County: 1 dead bird, 1 sentinel chicken, 4 mosquito samples and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus.**

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DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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