



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

19200 Latona Road, Anderson, CA 96007
Telephone: (530) 365-3768 Fax: (530) 365-0305
Web: shastamosquito.org

Contact: Peter Bonkrude, District Manager
Or John Albright, Vector Ecologist
Ph# 530-365-3768

E-mail: contact@shastamosquito.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2012

First Indication of West Nile Virus Activity in Shasta County

The first mosquito sample in Shasta County to test positive this year for the West Nile virus (WNV) has been reported in a rural area NW of the City of Anderson. “The temperatures have really been heating up and our mosquito numbers have risen to match. We continue to aggressively treat these areas for mosquitoes both in their immature and adult stages. In addition to the steps we are taking in response to this positive test, we encourage residents to follow preventative actions,” stated Peter Bonkrude, District Manager of the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District.

West Nile virus continues to exhibit levels not only statewide, but nationally, that are much higher than experienced in the last 5 years. In California alone, WNV positive dead bird test rates are 5 times higher than 2011. Due to this increase in WNV transmission, the District has augmented surveillance and treatment of larval and adult mosquitoes in the affected areas.

SMVCD staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites; reducing activity during the peak mosquito feeding times at dawn and dusk, wearing effective insect repellent, and staying behind screened windows and doors whenever possible. The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District advises the public to implement the 3 Ds of protection:

- **D**rain any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- **D**efend yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and dressing protectively when outside and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **C**ontact the **D**istrict for any additional help controlling mosquitoes around your home.

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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”.

For more information, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or www.shastamosquito.org

2012 Shasta County West Nile virus activity update: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **1** mosquito sample, and **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date. Statewide virus activity update: **606** dead birds, **48** sentinel chickens, **921** mosquito samples, and **13** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to 8/8/2012.

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