



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2008

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## **FIRES SPUR VECTOR ISSUES**

### ***Flies, Rats and Mosquitoes May Become Problematic Post Fires***

County of San Diego Vector Control Officials warn today that there may be an increase in disease carrying vectors such as flies, rats and mosquitoes as a result of the fires. Excess trash, debris and unmaintained swimming pools will add to the problem.

“We are asking residents to take precautions and notify us if they notice pests in their areas,” stated Gary Erbeck, Director of the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health. “Rats will be looking for food and shelter, flies will multiply in the trash and decaying dead animals, and mosquitoes will breed in the pools of homes that have burned down.”

Vector Control Technicians are available now for rat assistance, and will be assessing the burn areas for potential vector problems as soon as it is safe to do so. In the mean time, please follow these guidelines to reduce the number of pests we will be dealing with as we begin to recover from this tragedy:

- Properly bag and dispose of litter, trash and debris
- Seal all external holes in your home to prevent rodents from entering
- Keep pool pumps on if you have electricity, otherwise put mosquito fish or mosquito larvicide into unmaintained swimming pools

Mosquito fish are available free at several locations around the County of San Diego. Do not chlorinate the pool if you are using fish for mosquito control. Mosquito larvicide, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti)*, is available at home stores and can also be put directly into the pools to control mosquitoes. Draining green pools is not recommended because it is only a temporary solution. Rain and irrigation water can collect at the bottom of the pool perpetuating the problem.

For more information please contact Vector Control at 858-694-2888 or

[www.SDVector.com](http://www.SDVector.com).

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