



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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August 13, 2008

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Dead Bird Count Continues to Climb ***Residents Urged to Eliminate Mosquito Breeding, Fight Spread of West Nile Virus***

West Nile virus continues to spread in San Diego County, and in the past week, 35 dead birds have tested positive for the disease, County Vector Control officials announced today. Among the latest dead birds were 31 American Crows, two Western Scrub-Jays, and two Red-shouldered Hawks. The birds were found in Alpine, Boulevard, Carlsbad, Carmel Valley, Del Mar, Del Mar Heights, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona, Santee, Scripps Ranch, Solana Beach, and Vista. This week's count brings the year's totals to 251 dead birds. Eight sentinel chickens, seven mosquito pools, one horse and three humans.

"Vector Control is working hard to suppress the mosquito population in the county, but we also need County residents to look around their own yards for mosquito breeding spots," said Gary Erbeck, Director of the County Department of Environmental Health.

"This disease is not something to be taken lightly. Take those few extra steps to protect yourself and your family."

Residents should protect themselves by removing standing water from around their homes to prevent mosquito breeding, and checking common breeding sources, including birdbaths and wheelbarrows once a week. A complete checklist can be found on the County's West Nile virus Web site, www.SDFightthebite.com. Mosquitoes only need half an inch of water to lay their eggs. Window and door screens should be kept closed and in good condition.

When spending time outdoors during dawn and dusk hours, use EPA registered, CDC recommended insect repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR 3535. For more information regarding effective insect repellents, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/repellentupdates.

For information on WNV, or to report neglected swimming pools and mosquito breeding sites, please call County Vector Control at (888) 551-INFO (4636).

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