



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 6, 2017

AERIAL APPLICATIONS IN INDIO TARGET INVASIVE Aedes MOSQUITOES

Residents urged to help reduce mosquitoes by dumping standing water from recent rains

INDIO, CA, FEBRUARY 6, 2017: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District will conduct larval mosquito treatments by helicopter in the City of Indio where *Aedes aegypti*, an invasive mosquito species, was detected initially in October. Since then, vector control staff have conducted more than 1,300 door-to-door inspections and resident education, carried out both larval and adult mosquito control at properties where necessary, and 12 nights of truck-mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) applications in affected neighborhoods. Despite these efforts, detections of the invasive mosquito continue in Indio.

Applications are scheduled to take place, weather permitting, every week starting February 11, 5:30-7:30 a.m. until March 4, and then every other week on March 18, April 1, and April 15. The aerial route will be within the borders of Monroe St., Indio Blvd., Golf Center Parkway, and I-10, and cover 550 acres and about 1,600 properties. Residents are urged to check the District website for details of the application routes and times at <http://www.cvmvcd.org/controlactivities.htm>.

Ae. aegypti is capable of transmitting deadly viruses including dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. While these viruses are not currently transmitted locally, the District is taking steps to rid this mosquito from the Coachella Valley before it becomes established. Aerial control helps to reduce mosquito populations in areas that are hard to reach by truck or personnel. The control product, VectoBac® WDG, is environmentally friendly, is approved for application on organic crops, and has no effect on people or pets at the amounts used for mosquito control. It is registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

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The products are applied according to label instructions by trained and certified technicians. Although the District's mosquito control products pose low risk, some people may prefer to avoid exposure by staying inside or away from the area during and for 30 minutes following the application. Postcards have been sent to all residents and businesses in the aerial spray zone and signs will be posted along roads informing residents of the control efforts.

The District encourages all residents throughout the Valley to continue supporting efforts to get rid of mosquitoes. While recent storms provided some relief to drought-thirsty Southern California, the water left behind in people's yards provide havens for potentially disease-spreading mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can complete their life cycles from egg to adult in about a week, and therefore any standing water should be dumped or drained prior to that to prevent the production of adult mosquitoes.

Community commitment to removing standing water sources both inside and outside of the home is critical to any success in eliminating both *Aedes aegypti* and other disease-transmitting mosquitoes from the Coachella Valley.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home:

- **Drain Standing Water.** Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places for mosquitoes to breed by draining/discarding items that hold water, such as old tires, buckets, and empty flower pots. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty water from saucers under pots and water-holding plants such as bromeliads, and regularly change the water in root plant cuttings (both indoors and outdoors). Change water and scrub clean wading pools, birdbaths, and pet bowls at least weekly.
- **Install or Repair Screens.** Keep mosquitoes out with tight-fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Protect yourself from mosquito bites:

- **Apply Insect Repellent.** Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Lemon eucalyptus oil should not be used on children under three years of age.
- **Be Aware of Peak WNV-Transmitting Mosquito Hours.** Dawn and dusk are peak biting times for mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile virus. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities during that time. Also, be aware of day-time biting mosquitoes and report them to the District.
- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from skin.

Please contact the District at (760) 342-8287 or (888) 343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, report neglected pools or standing water, and report dead birds. For more information, visit us at www.cvmvcd.org. For statewide statistics on West Nile virus activity, go to <http://westnile.ca.gov>. For information on mosquito-borne disease transmission to humans in Riverside County, go to www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org. For information on *Aedes* mosquitoes, go to <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Aedes-albopictus-and-Aedes-aegypti-Mosquitoes.aspx>.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Media are invited to conduct interviews and record the first application in Indio:

WHAT: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District will conduct larval mosquito treatments by helicopter in the City of Indio where *Aedes aegypti*, an invasive mosquito species, has been detected. The media are invited to attend the application.

WHERE: The aerial route will be within the borders of Monroe St., Indio Blvd., Golf Center Parkway, and I-10, and will cover about 550 acres. The media staging area to film and photograph the application and to do interviews will be in the empty lot behind the Village Square Shopping Center at the corner of Avenue 44 and Jackson Street.

WHEN: February 11, 2017 at 5:30 a.m. Media are invited to join District staff at the park for coffee and breakfast snacks.

WHY: *Aedes aegypti* is not native to the U.S. and is capable of transmitting viruses including chikungunya, dengue, and Zika. While these viruses are not currently transmitted locally, the District is taking steps to rid this mosquito from infested neighborhoods before it becomes established in the Coachella Valley. Aerial control helps to reduce mosquito populations in areas that are hard to reach by truck or backpack. The control product, VectoBac® WDG, is environmentally friendly, is approved for application on organic crops, and has no effect on people or pets at the amounts used for mosquito control. It is registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

INTERVIEWS: Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Manager Jeremy Wittie will be available for interviews in English. Field Supervisor Oldembour Avalos will be available for interviews in Spanish. For more information, contact Jill Oviatt, Public Information Manager, at (760) 342-8287 or (760) 289-9298 or joviatt@cvmvcd.org.

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