



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

1145 N. Azusa Canyon Road
West Covina, CA 91790
(626) 814-9466
www.sgvmosquito.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kelly Middleton
Public Information Officer
(626) 814-9466
kmiddleton@sgvmosquito.org

UPDATE: INVASIVE MOSQUITO IN SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

West Covina, CA (September 21, 2011) –

After identifying Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*) in the city of El Monte, the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District undertook an aggressive door-to-door campaign to evaluate the extent of the infestation, control adult and larval mosquito populations, and educate the public.

Below are the results of that campaign:

The District sent 25 employees and volunteers door-to-door throughout a 1/2 square mile area around the initial find. Staff visited nearly 1,300 homes and businesses leaving multi-language flyers and conducting roughly 1,000 inspections. **“The results of this surveillance effort were not encouraging” reports Kenn Fujioka, the District’s assistant manager.**

Asian tiger mosquitoes were identified at 15 sites throughout the survey area, and 31% of ovitraps (a surveillance tool which attracts egg-laying females) placed at 46 sites contained *Aedes* eggs.

Pesticides were applied in a small area where the mosquito was first identified and the results were more promising. Before the application to control adult mosquitoes, 52.4% of the ovitraps contained eggs. Three days after treatment only 13.3% of the ovitraps contained eggs – a 75% reduction.

Although the treatment was successful at reducing the adult population in that localized area, it will not be effective on a large scale. Fujioka notes, “Now that we have determined the infestation is not localized, we will look at treatment protocols

that work over a larger area.” The District has received valuable advice from mosquito control experts dealing with this species on the east coast. “We will look closely at their protocols to determine our next step.” If feasible, options *may* include applying products with truck mounted or aerial (helicopter or airplane) equipment to evenly disperse appropriate pesticides throughout the infestation area. Residents will be pre-notified if any such activities are planned.

This will be a community issue. Because many of the favored breeding sites are on patios and in backyards, residents in the area must participate if the mosquito is to be eradicated.

Residents are urged to:

- Call to report any small, black and white, daytime-biting mosquitoes
- Search for and discard any containers, cans, buckets, and old tires, or move them into the garage/shed. Even trash under bushes will collect enough rain/sprinkler water for this mosquito to reproduce
- Remove all water saucers/bowls from under potted plants. Place them in the sun for 24 hours to kill any eggs and then store indoors
- Drill drain holes in all decorative flower pots
- Do not store/age water in uncovered buckets
- Empty bird baths/small fountains completely or clean thoroughly every 3 days
- Ensure rain barrels are completely sealed to prevent mosquito entry
- Clean out rain gutters before the rainy season
- Drill drain holes at low spots in fire swings, trash cans, or anything else that may collect rainwater
- Check and clean out lawn drains, French drains, and other below-ground drainages to ensure water does not collect

Native to Southeast Asia, this mosquito has invaded other countries through international transport of goods and travel. It was first found in the United States in 1985 and has since spread throughout the southeast and eastern US.

Aedes albopictus is an efficient vector (transmitter) of dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, and several viruses that can cause encephalitis. This species is responsible for recent outbreaks of dengue virus in south Florida, Texas, and Hawai'i, a virus not seen in the continental United States since 1946.

Pictures of this mosquito and information about control measures can be found on the Districts website at www.SGVmosquito.org. Residents are urged to call or use the “Report a Problem” link to report possible sightings.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a public health agency dedicated to the control of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases.

The District can be reached at 626-814-9466 or on the web at www.sgvmosquito.org

--- END ---