

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

**Kelly Middleton**

Education Specialist  
San Gabriel Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District  
1145 N. Azusa Canyon Road  
West Covina, CA 91790  
(626) 814-9466  
[kmiddleton@sgvmosquito.org](mailto:kmiddleton@sgvmosquito.org)

**DATE: July 16, 2004**

**HEADLINE: Increased West Nile Virus Activity Triggers Localized Fogging**

**BODY:**

Evidence that West Nile virus (WNV) activity at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in the City of Arcadia has not diminished, has prompted officials at the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District to schedule fogging measures that target adult mosquitoes.

Fogging with truck-mounted and hand-held ultra low volume (ULV) sprayers will be conducted during the predawn hours Tuesday, July 20, by District employees on the grounds of the Arboretum only. This treatment will be confined to the park boundaries and should not drift out into neighboring residential areas; however those residential areas closest to the Arboretum will be posted on Monday as a precautionary measure. Fogging activities may be postponed if weather conditions are not conducive to treatment requirements or repeated if adequate control is not achieved.

The following factors have prompted this precautionary measure to reduce the risk of additional spread of WNV:

- ❖ Adult mosquitoes trapped at the Arboretum in June tested positive for WNV.
- ❖ Chicken flocks placed by the Vector Control District on the grounds of the Arboretum continue to contract WNV indicating mosquitoes nearby are still infected.
- ❖ Larval control methods, although initially successful, have not been able to stop WNV transmission.
- ❖ Outdoor evening programs offered at the Arboretum typically attract many visitors from the higher risk groups for severe illness (over 50 years of age) into the area when mosquitoes are most active.

The adulticide Scourge<sup>®</sup> was selected based on environmental conditions at the site, and to provide the best, and most targeted control of mosquitoes while minimizing risks to

wildlife species present in the Arboretum. This is a man-made version of a natural pesticide produced by chrysanthemum flowers. The same ingredients are found in many commercial products used to control insects, including household insecticides and pet sprays and shampoos. The pesticide is mixed with a light mineral oil and applied as an ultra-low volume spray. This spray will be applied at less than 0.2 fluid ounces of active ingredient per acre. The active ingredient in the pesticide breaks down very rapidly, will leave no residue, and will pose no risk to visitors to the park.

The District's primary goal is to control mosquitoes by targeting the larval (immature) stages found in standing water. Although more difficult than adulticiding, this approach is far more efficient and is safer for non-target species. Using pesticides to kill adult mosquitoes is a last resort when other measures have not effectively controlled virus transmission cycles.

We encourage residents engaging in outdoor activities in the early morning and evening hours to wear protective clothing (long sleeves and pants) and use mosquito repellents containing DEET. Non-DEET based repellents are effective for only very short periods of time and should not be relied upon if outdoors for more than 20 minutes.

West Nile virus has sickened 28 people, and has been detected in nearly 1000 dead birds, 26 horses, 158 mosquito samples, and 69 sentinel chickens in Southern California so far in 2004. Current statistics on WNV can be obtained at [www.westnile.com](http://www.westnile.com) or <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/> .

**Please contact the District if you have any questions:**

**San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District  
1145 N. Azusa Canyon Road  
West Covina, CA 91790  
(626) 814-9466  
[www.sgvmosquito.org](http://www.sgvmosquito.org)**