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Riverside County
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Dottie Merki, REHS
Program Chief/PIO
dellisme@rivcocha.org

Mosquito-control application scheduled in Perris and San Jacinto

Due to a recent discovery of the mosquito capable of transmitting Zika virus in the city of Perris, Riverside County will apply an ultra-low volume of a material designed to reduce adult mosquito populations in the area. This is the first time the new invasive mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, also known as the Yellow Fever Mosquito, has been detected within Perris. Routine trapping continues to show the *Aedes* mosquito presence in San Jacinto prompting county staff to also schedule a treatment within that city.

The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health's Vector Control Program's planned treatment by both a handheld and truck-mounted sprayer is intended to reduce the population of mosquitos. Although capable of transmitting Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya; to date, none of the mosquitos have tested positive for any virus. The areas scheduled to be treated in Perris are; north of 7th Street, south of Tomahawk Road and bordered by Apache Road to the east and Shawnee Road to the west. The San Jacinto area encompasses both sides of East Beringer Drive between Villines Avenue and Mouton Drive. The areas were posted with signs Thursday and Friday notifying residents of the planned treatment.

Application of the EPA-approved mosquito control product Zenivex (EPA Reg No 2724-807) is scheduled for Tuesday (11th) from 5am to 7am. Zenivex is registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for controlling mosquitos and protecting public health. This product is applied according to label instructions by trained and certified technicians.

Although the product poses very little to no risk for people, some may prefer to avoid exposure. Residents who wish to minimize exposure to themselves and pets should remain indoors and keep windows closed during ground application and for 15 minutes afterward. The amount of material sprayed is three ounces per acre, which ensures that humans, animals and crops are safe.

In addition, vector-control staff are intensifying mosquito surveillance, searching out breeding sites and conducting larval control where appropriate.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is small, black, and has white markings. It is known for being an aggressive 'day biter' and prefers to live in or around homes. It can lay its eggs in very small containers of water and the eggs are capable of surviving for up to a year in dry locations. Once water is introduced, they will hatch. Because of this, residents are urged to not only drain standing water but to also scrub the sides of all containers with a brush to kill the eggs.

Follow these precautions to safeguard your family:

- Protect against mosquito bites by using 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 percent or less on older children. Lemon eucalyptus oil should not be used on children under three years of age.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. Dawn and dusk are peak biting times for many mosquitos. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities during that time. Report any day biting mosquitos to vector staff, stressing that you are being bitten during the day vs at dawn or dusk.
- Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitos away from skin.
- Mosquito-proof your home. Drain standing water because mosquitos lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places for mosquitos to breed by draining/discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools. Change water in birdbaths and pet bowls at least weekly.
- Keep mosquitos outside by having tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Please call the vector control office at 951-766-9454 if you have any questions, would like to report a mosquito problem in your area or to request fish that eat mosquito larvae. You may also visit our website <http://www.rivcoeh.org/Programs/vector> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideCountyEH/> for more information.