

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

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OCMVCD Pairs Larvicide Treatment with Adult Mosquito Control to Address Increased Mosquito Abundance and WNV Activity

Garden Grove, CA. The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) will be conducting a Wide Area Larvicide Spray (WALS) treatment in conjunction with an Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) adulticide treatment to address the increase in mosquito abundance and risk of mosquito-borne disease in the City of La Habra. The ULV adulticide application will target the flying adult mosquitoes that are infected with WNV and reduce the risk of WNV infection in people. The larvicide application will target cryptic water sources and prevent the immature mosquitoes from developing into adult mosquitoes.

The WALS and ULV applications will be conducted Thursday, September 10th between the hours of 10pm-5am in the City of La Habra. The new WALS treatment being applied will use a product called VectoBac® WDG, which contains *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), an OMRI rated naturally occurring bacterium. Bti has no toxicity to people and pets and is certified for treatment of organic crops. The application will not harm the finishes on cars or homes.

“The WALS treatment is an additional tool we use to control mosquito populations in urban environments,” said Robert Cummings, Director of OCMVCD Technical Services. “This treatment will prevent mosquitoes from emerging into biting adults and will help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.”

Residents located in the treatment areas will be notified prior to the treatment date with signs posted in their neighborhoods or a flyer left at their door. All control products used by OCMVCD are registered by the federal and state Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of controlling mosquitoes and to safeguard public health.

As OCMVCD continues to identify and treat for mosquito breeding sources, it is essential that residents do their part in eliminating standing water on their properties. Even a capful of water can produce hundreds of mosquitoes.

“Residents need to take immediate action to dump and drain standing water in containers on their property. We must reduce mosquito breeding around homes to reduce the presence of adult mosquitoes and prevent the transmission of West Nile virus,” stated Heather Hyland, OCMVCD Public Information Officer.

To learn more about the WALS, visit ocvector.org

MORE

More information about treatments:

<https://www.ocvector.org/residential-truck-mounted-treatments>

Residents must take charge of their yard to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on their property:

- Tip out any standing water at least once a week
- Toss out any unused containers
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly
- Do not transport or share plant clippings rooted in water
- Drill a hole or puncture containers to eliminate standing water

To prevent mosquito bites, take action and follow these tips:

- Apply mosquito repellents to exposed skin before going outdoors; reapply as recommended
- Wear repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Close all unscreened doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home or space; repair broken or damaged screens
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and opt for lighter-colored clothing

Residents are encouraged to sign up for District email notifications. For more information, visit www.ocvector.org.

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