



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2015

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Public Health Officials Offer Tips for Prevention of Mosquitos during Summer Months

San Francisco, CA – With the summer season upon us, San Francisco Health Officials advise residents to take precautions to help prevent mosquitoes. The following are steps you can take to reduce mosquito populations and avoid mosquito bites:

- Eliminate standing water around your home or backyard
- Drain all abandoned ponds and pools
- Properly dispose of abandoned tires or avoid water accumulation in tires by properly covering
- Avoid runoff from over watering lawns or washing cars
- Avoid over watering planters
- Check or treat catch basins on your property
- Screen windows
- Wear long sleeves and pants while outdoors especially in the evenings
- Wear repellent containing DEET in the evening or while hiking
- Allow Health Inspectors to inspect your backyard if they receive mosquito complaints in your community

Public Health Inspectors may also distribute mosquito educational material in your community.

Mosquitoes can carry and transmit West Nile Virus (WNV). There is approximately one WNV infection reported per year in San Francisco residents. We have not had a case of WNV infection in an SF resident reported so far in 2015. WNV is an arthropod borne virus commonly spread by infected mosquitoes. Most people get infected with West Nile Virus by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals.

If you find a dead bird report it immediately by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD or 1-877-968-2473.

You may call the San Francisco Health Department Vector Control Program with any questions or concerns at 415-252-3805.

Visit our Vector Control Program: [West Nile Virus Prevention and Mosquito Control webpage](#) or the following websites for more information.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/>
- California Department of Public Health www.westnile.ca.gov
- Orange County Health Care Agency <http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/wn>