



September 2011

Two Stinging Incidents in San Bernardino County

San Bernardino Fire Department responded to a stinging incident in August at a strip mall. Five roofing workers required medical aid when a bee hive was disturbed in the roof they were working on. Vector Control Technicians Berg and Drouault were dispatched to control the hive. A pesticide dust was injected into the roof cavity, eliminating the hazard.

The following week, Cal Fire responded to another stinging incident in Highland. It was reported that a resident attempted to control the hive in the garage with a chemical fire extinguisher, causing the bees to sting him and others. Vector Control Technicians Leeann Drouault and Andrea Chew controlled the bees and removed the hive.

Caution should be taken when a bee hive is found. All hives should be presumed to be occupied by Africanized Honeybees (AHB), which defend their hives fiercely by stinging the perceived attackers. The victim of an AHB incident can get hundreds of stings. Residents should not try to control or remove hives themselves. A qualified pest control company should be hired to take care of bees on private property, and hives in public areas such as right-of-way trees, or that can be an immediate threat to public health should be reported to the Mosquito & Vector Control Program at 909-388-4600.

Read the Africanized Honey Bees publication [here](#).



Route 66 Rendezvous (Minus the Critters)

About 10 years ago, San Bernardino County, Mosquito and Vector Control began inspecting and treating sewer man-holes in the area around the Route 66 Rendezvous in San Bernardino. There had been a light-hearted article in the newspaper about large cockroaches running across the streets and sidewalks after dark. We apply a pesticide to each man-hole a few days before the event, and have not heard of any cringing or fleeing attendees since.



Where Have All The Gray Squirrels Gone?

Have you noticed a decline in gray squirrels in the San Bernardino County Mountains? So have we. Here is a news article that explains the declining squirrel population. Read the Press Enterprise news story [here](#).



West Nile virus Indicators in San Bernardino County

Our pro-active disease surveillance and monitoring program determines the abundance of vector populations and the prevalence of diseases they transmit, focusing mainly on mosquito-borne viruses, rodent-borne diseases and tick-borne infections.



From July, 2011 until September 14th, 2011 we have several West Nile virus positive indicators as follows:

Sentinel Chickens: Total of **24** WNV-positive chickens. There are 10 chickens in each flock.

- Colton - 7 out of 10 positive chickens
- Rialto Frisbie Park - 7 chickens
- Moabi Regional Park - 5
- Needles Sewer Plant - 3
- Redlands - 1
- San Bernardino Wildwood Park - 1

Mosquito pools: Total of **18** WNV-positive pools

- Rialto Frisbie Park - 5
- Fontana - 4
- Redlands - 3
- San Bernardino - 4
- Colton - 1
- Needles -1

Dead Birds: Total of **13** WNV-positive dead birds (all American Crows)

- Redlands - 4
- Highland - 3
- San Bernardino - 2
- Bloomington - 2
- Rialto - 1
- Fontana - 1

For information on West Nile virus prevention, please visit our [website](#).

The Mosquito and Vector Control program provides inspections, education and disease surveillance services in the cities of Colton, San Bernardino, Grand Terrace, Fontana, Highland, Loma Linda, Needles, Redlands, Rialto, Upland, Yucaipa and all unincorporated areas in our County.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Amanda Gaspard, Health Education Specialist, at 800-442-2283 or Amanda.Gaspard@dph.sbcounty.gov.

