



July 2013  
Volume 3, Issue 3

## Africanized Honey Bees

Last month, a man in Texas died after being stung by Africanized honey bees more than a thousand times. He was cleaning up his property, and moved an old chicken coop which unbeknownst to him was home to the Africanized honey bees – known as “killer bees.” The bees swarmed and stung the man repeatedly, and sadly he did not survive.

Africanized honey bees first appeared in San Bernardino County in 1996. Each year the percentage of bees that is Africanized increases. Though no human fatalities have occurred in our county, there have been a number of stinging incidents involving humans, livestock and pets. Horses, dogs and exotic birds have died from stings because they were unable to escape to a safe distance from agitated Africanized honey bee hives.

To learn more about Africanized honey bees and how to protect yourself from them, [read our fact sheet](#). Our Mosquito & Vector Control technicians respond to complaints about bees. For more information or to report a problem with bees, please call (800) 442-2283.



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## Are You Getting Bitten by Mosquitos During the Daytime? Call Us!

Two new mosquito species have been identified in California recently. The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) has been found in Los Angeles County, and the Yellow Fever Mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) has been found in Fresno and Madera Counties. The Asian Tiger Mosquito has the capacity to transmit diseases such as dengue, yellow fever, West Nile Virus, St. Louis encephalitis, and Chikungunya fever, as well as several filarial nematodes. As its name suggests, the Yellow Fever Mosquito can carry yellow fever as well as other diseases including dengue and Chikungunya fever.



The Asian Tiger Mosquito and Yellow Fever Mosquito differ from the other mosquito species we see in San Bernardino County because they bite during the daytime. Most mosquitos in San Bernardino County bite at dawn and dusk. If you are being bit by mosquitos during the day, please call our Mosquito & Vector Control Program at (800) 442-2283 to report this to us. Your calls will be very helpful to our surveillance efforts. We will investigate all complaints of daytime-biting mosquitos within 24 hours of receiving the complaint.

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## Squirrel Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Big Bear Lake

On July 16, the state laboratory confirmed that a dead gray tree squirrel collected on July 9 in Big Bear Lake tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first positive indicator of West Nile Virus in 2013 in the area served by the

County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program. The program conducts active surveillance on vector-borne diseases, and monitors and treats all known water sources where mosquito breeding may occur. There have also been positive non-human indicators of West Nile Virus in the west end of San Bernardino County (served by West Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District) as well as Riverside County.



The California Department of Public Health encourages the public to participate in the West Nile Virus surveillance program by reporting dead birds or squirrels to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD, or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). For answers to FAQs about West Nile Virus, [please click here](#).

Property owners with pools are encouraged to keep them clean. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in unmaintained green pools and can fly up to 1.5 miles per hour, potentially transmitting the virus and impacting entire neighborhoods. Please report green pools and other sources of mosquito breeding to the County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (800) 442-2283.

San Bernardino County residents can protect themselves and their families from West Nile Virus by taking these precautions:

- **Drain or Dump** – Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitos lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- **Dawn and Dusk** – Avoid spending time outside when mosquitos are most active.
- **Dress** – Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose-fitting and light-colored.
- **DEET** – Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors** – Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitos from entering your home.

You can help prevent West Nile Virus by reminding your family, friends, and neighbors to follow the simple steps above to avoid getting this disease.

Horses are susceptible to West Nile Virus. A vaccine is available for horses; horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about vaccinations.

For more information, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs).

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## Bed Bugs

We have been receiving a high number of complaints about bed bugs in our service area. Bed bugs can infest anyone's home, regardless of cleanliness or socioeconomic status. People have been known to get bed bugs on airplanes, in movie theaters, in buses and public transportation, in fitting rooms at clothing stores, in hotels, and many more commonly visited places. Everyone is potentially at risk of getting a bed bug infestation in their home.



When you stay in a hotel, motel, camp, or bed and breakfast, do you regularly check your room for bed bugs? Bed bugs have been known to infest even five-star hotels, so you should make a habit of checking every hotel room, every time. [Click here to download a wallet-sized card](#) you can take when traveling to remind yourself how to inspect a hotel room for bed bugs.

Do not take furniture that has been discarded on the side of the road or left by dumpsters as it may be infested. Furniture from thrift shops and non-profit organizations should be thoroughly checked for bed bugs prior to purchase.

You can visit the CDC's webpage on bed bugs at [www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs) for answers to your questions about bed bugs. If you have additional questions, you can call us at (800) 442-2283.

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*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Amanda Gaspard, Health Education Specialist, at 800-442-2283 or [Amanda.Gaspard@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Amanda.Gaspard@dph.sbcounty.gov).*

