



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 7, 2011

VECTOR CONTROL CONDUCTING PRECAUTIONARY SURVEILLANCE FOR THE ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO

INDIO, CA, OCTOBER 7, 2011: On August 31st *Aedes albopictus* (Asian tiger mosquito) was discovered in Los Angeles County in the City of El Monte. The discovery was made by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District responding to a phone call of resident complaining of a day-biting mosquito. *There is no indication that the Asian tiger mosquito is in the Coachella Valley, as this mosquito is from tropical origins and our desert environment may not provide its preferred environment.*

WHAT:

As a precaution, the District will be conducting surveillance for the Asian tiger mosquito. The District will be utilizing several different larval and adult traps.

WHEN:

The District began its surveillance measures on Tuesday, September 27th, the District conducted inspections of nurseries, as well as setting out CO2 baited traps.

WHERE:

Surveillance measures will be done throughout the Coachella Valley, with emphasis on the Northwest Valley, as it is usually found in urban developments rather than rural areas. The District will also be looking for these mosquitoes near plant nurseries.

FACTS ABOUT THE ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO:

Native to Southeast Asia, the Asian tiger mosquito was first found in the United States in 1985 and was brought into California in 2001, in shipments of plants (“Lucky Bamboo”) from Southeast Asia. The Asian tiger mosquito is an efficient vector (transmitter) of dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, West Nile virus, dog heartworm, and several viruses that can cause encephalitis. This species is responsible for recent outbreaks of dengue virus in south Florida, Texas, and Hawaii, a virus not seen in the continental United States since 1946.

Unlike most mosquitoes native to California, Asian tiger mosquitoes are aggressive day-time biters. They are approximately ¼ inch long and have distinctive black and white bands across their body and legs. These mosquitoes are considered “container breeders” and require very little water to lay eggs and breed. Females will lay individual eggs next to the water surface in buckets, flower pots, and even trash. They will also lay eggs in natural containers such as tree holes, bamboo, and inside flowering plants such as bromeliads. The eggs can remain viable for years in the right environment and hatch once the eggs are re-flooded with water.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Since many of the mosquito breeding sites are on patios and in backyards, residents are urged to:

- Call to report any small, black and white, daytime-biting mosquitoes
- Search for and discard any containers, cans, buckets, and old tires, or move them into the garage/shed. Even trash under bushes will collect enough rain/sprinkler water for this mosquito to reproduce
- Remove all water saucers/bowls from under potted plants. Place them in the sun for 24 hours to kill any eggs and then store indoors
- Drill drain holes in all decorative flower pots

- Do not store/age water in uncovered buckets
- Empty bird baths/small fountains completely or clean thoroughly every 3 days
- Ensure rain barrels are completely sealed to prevent mosquito entry
- Clean out rain gutters
- Drill drain holes at low spots in tire swings, trash cans, or anything else that may collect rainwater
- Check and clean out lawn drains, French drains, and other below-ground drainages to ensure water does not collect

Contact the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish, and report neglected pools or standing water. You can visit us online at www.cvmvcd.org to obtain more information and submit service requests.

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