Rodent Awareness Week

October 17-23, 2021

Rodents can be very problematic. Not only do they cause damages to homes but they also spread diseases to humans. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter for rodent awareness week to learn about:

- Rodent species found in the county
- Diseases carried by rodents
- Rodent habitats
- Signs of rodent activity
- How to prevent a rodent infestation

You can search us with the handle @sccvcd. You can also find a link to our social media profiles by visiting www.sccvector.org.
SERVICES AVAILABLE

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District is committed to protecting the public from vectors capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

The following services are available for free to the Santa Clara County public.

- Advice and/or control measures for mosquitoes
- Free mosquitofish for mosquito control
- Home inspections and advice for rodent infestations and wildlife activity
- Insect identification and confirmation letter
- Dead bird pick up for West Nile virus testing
- Yellowjacket and wasp control/nest removal in public areas and advice on control
- Consultations for bed bug abatement
- Educational presentations for K-12 students, tailored for individual classroom settings or school assemblies
- Educational presentations/booths for homeowner associations, organizations, businesses, civic groups, and other interested parties

“A VECTOR IS ANY ANIMAL OR INSECT THAT CAN TRANSMIT DISEASES TO ANIMALS OR PEOPLE.”
The District has a robust mosquito prevention program in place, focusing on the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to eliminate mosquitoes before they reach adulthood, and begin infecting people and animals with diseases. IPM is composed of four elements and provides the most effective way to manage pests. It includes the use of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical control. To learn more about IPM, visit https://bit.ly/WhatIsIPM.

Year-round, staff inspect potential mosquito breeding sources like catch basins, marshes, creeks, ponds, neglected pools, and anything that holds standing water. The District uses biological controls such as mosquitofish, and products approved by the Environmental Protection Agency that specifically target mosquito larvae and pupae to eliminate the mosquito population.
Anything that can hold standing water can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Even public areas like street curbs can hold standing water when it rains or grass is overwatered. Our operations team checks areas like these throughout the county to eliminate early stage mosquitoes, before they can become biting adults.

Report any standing water you notice around your neighborhood and our technicians will eliminate any possible mosquito breeding. You can let us know by submitting a service request online at www.sccvector.org, sending us an email at vectorinfo.org, or calling (408) 918-4770.

16 curbs were found to be holding standing water and 14 of them were breeding mosquitoes.
Mosquitoes pose a serious health risk to humans because they can transmit deadly diseases like West Nile virus. Different mosquito species can carry different diseases, but not all mosquitoes are infected. Mosquitoes only need a bottle cap of water to lay their eggs, now imagine how many can breed in a pool.

You can help prevent mosquito breeding in pools by following these precautions. Do not allow water levels in your swimming pool to fall below the pump circulation area, drain pool and keep it dry after rainfalls, or permanently remove pool after obtaining the proper permits. If there is work being done to the property/pool, contact the District to help control the mosquito breeding while the work is being done.

To report mosquito activity and abandoned/neglected swimming pools you can call the District office at (408) 918-4770 or submit a service request at www.sccvector.org.
145 bodies of water like ponds, marshes, and water troughs were treated to eliminate mosquitoes out of 293 inspected sites.
Mosquitofish (Gambusia affinis) are a small fish in the guppy family that are natural predators of mosquito larvae and pupae, making them an environmentally friendly alternative to mosquito control without the use of chemical insecticides. This method is referred to as biological control and is part of our Integrated pest management (IPM) program.

They are easily maintained and have a broad tolerance to a wide range of environmental conditions, require minimum care, and are compatible with most pond fish.

The District offers free mosquitofish to all of the public in Santa Clara County. They can be placed in artificial bodies of water like unmaintained pools, ponds, rain barrels, and water troughs. For more information on our mosquitofish program and mosquitofish availability, visit www.sccvector.org/mosquitofish.
Just as the County's Vector Control District monitors for diseases transmitted by infected mosquitoes, there are other districts in California that do the same. As of September 30, 2021 California had positive West Nile virus tests for the following categories: 59 human cases, 198 dead birds, 79 sentinel chickens, 12 horses, and 2,191 mosquito samples.

The 59 human cases come from 17 counties, including Shasta (2), Glenn (2), Butte (13), Placer (2), Yolo (1), Solano (1), San Joaquin (2), Stanislaus (5), Merced (2), Madera (3), Fresno (4), Kings (1), Tulare (6), San Luis Obispo (2), Kern (2), Los Angeles (9), and San Diego (2) counties.

There have been 3 positive mosquito pools in Santa Clara County to date, and our team continues to actively inspect and control all mosquito breeding found in the county.

For more information on WNV activity in California, visit https://westnile.ca.gov.
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Dead Bird Program

West Nile virus (WNV) is transmitted to birds through the bite of infected mosquitoes and mosquitoes become infected by biting an infected bird. Birds like crows and jays are especially susceptible to WNV and can get sick and die from the virus.

The District collects and tests dead birds that are reported by the public. In September, dead birds were collected from San Jose, Sunnyvale, Saratoga, and Stanford. You can report dead birds year-round, using the California Department of Public Health's online form available at https://westnile.ca.gov.
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Mosquito Trapping

Mosquito trapping is conducted throughout the entire county to monitor the abundance of mosquitoes and species present in the area. Mosquitoes are highly attracted to carbon dioxide (CO2) and is one of the methods they use to find their host. The District uses CO2 traps to attract and trap mosquitoes.

The top two mosquito species trapped in September included the *Culex tarsalis* (Western Encephalitis mosquito) and *Culex pipiens* (Northern house mosquito). To learn how you can help prevent mosquito bites and mosquito breeding around your home, visit www.sccvector.org/mosquitoes.
WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY

Adult Mosquito Control Treatments

In an effort to reduce positive West Nile virus mosquito populations detected in a small portion of the 94043, 94303, and 94306 ZIP Codes, the District conducted an adult mosquito control treatment on 9/17/21. These treatments help reduce the adult mosquito populations, which in turn reduce the risk of a West Nile virus human infection. The District monitors the efficacy of the adult mosquito control treatments by setting out cages of colony mosquitoes (mosquitoes that are bred in the District’s laboratory).

After the treatment is completed, our surveillance team evaluates the number of surviving mosquitoes in the cages. The treatment conducted on 9/17/21, provided a significant reduction in the number of caged (colony) mosquitoes with an average reduction of 73%. This treatment marks our largest overall reduction of 2021.

For more details on this adult mosquito control treatment, please visit www.sccvector.org/mosquitotreatments
PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

September Overview

The District provides services to the public including home inspections for rodents and wildlife activity, mosquitofish deliveries, insect identification assistance, and other services. In September, the District received 286 services requests, with the highest being requests for rodent assistance. If you would like to request a service, please submit a request online at www.sccvector.org or call (408) 918-4770.

Service requests received in September
MISSION
To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, abate mosquitoes, and assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury, to humans in Santa Clara County

NORWAY RAT - RATTUS NORVEGICUS

FOLLOW US
@SCCVD

CONTACT US
WWW.SCCVECTOR.ORG
(408) 918-4770
VECTORINFO@CEP.SCCGOV.ORG

1580 Berger Drive | San Jose, CA | 95112