What is the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District doing to protect the residents of Sutter & Yuba Counties?

The District has expanded its control program to treat over 140,000 acres of rice fields for mosquito larvae in 2008. We will also start spraying adult mosquitoes by ground and aircraft earlier than normal. Work in agricultural areas will start in late May and town spraying will start Wednesday July, 2nd. We have increased our community outreach efforts. The District Board has approved additional funds for these expanded services to fight WNV.

What are the facts?

We are prepared to respond to West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases and we’ll be more successful in our efforts with the public’s help. In the past few years, we have seen a decrease in the number of cases due to increased community awareness and changes in habits. The District has expanded its control program to more areas and has increased its control activities.

Will the District conduct spraying for mosquitoes?

West Nile virus was established in Sutter & Yuba counties in 2004. We had 3 human cases of WNV in Sutter and no cases in Yuba County in 2007. There were 25 mosquito collections and 25 sentinel chickens that tested positive for WNV. There were no horses with confirmed WNV in Sutter & Yuba counties last season. The District plans a proactive approach to mosquito control for 2008 in light of the continued WNV threat. The treatment of both mosquito larvae and adults will start earlier, targeting the first generation of the season. Town spraying will be performed on Wednesday evenings from truck-mounted, ultra low volume foggers starting at dusk. Spraying should last no longer than 2 1/2 hours. This will minimize risk to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

What pesticides will we use?

In the case of adult mosquito control we will use botanical insecticides (plant derived compounds) that include pyrethrins or synthetic pyrethroids, with piperonyl butoxide. All the products we use are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and applied according to label directions by our trained and certified technicians. Bti will be used for larval control in rice fields.

What are the facts?

The risks to the public and to the environment are very low. Mosquito adulticides are applied as ultra low volume (ULV) sprays. ULV applications involve small quantities of active ingredient in relationship to the size of the area treated. Typically 1 ounce per acre, which minimizes exposure and risk to people and the environment. For example, the EPA has estimated the exposure and risk to both the public and the environment is very low. Mosquito adulticides are applied as ultra low volume (ULV) sprays. ULV applications involve small quantities of active ingredient in relationship to the size of the area treated. Typically 1 ounce per acre, which minimizes exposure and risk to people and the environment.

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