



adult mosquito

Natural Resource Bulletin

Urban Mosquito Safety and Awareness

2013.6.2

Quick Facts:

Tips for avoiding exposure to mosquitoes:

Personal Protection

- Be aware that mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk. If you are going to be out at these times, be sure to take measures to protect yourself from bites.
- Wear loose, long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you will be outside and exposed to mosquitoes.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed areas. Be sure to follow directions for all insect repellents.
- Install or repair window and door screens and keep screen doors closed at dawn and dusk to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

Community Protection

Watch for and DRAIN standing water around the house weekly, including tires, cans, flowerpots, bird baths, clogged rain gutters, pool and hot tub covers, rain barrels, toys and tarps.

Does the city help control mosquitoes?

Aurora is responsible for mosquito control in all city-managed parks, natural areas, stream corridors, trail corridors and public properties. The city uses larvicide that specifically targets the larval life of the mosquito, preventing maturation. Larvicide is a cost-effective method of treatment that does not harm humans, wildlife or waterfowl. Aurora does not employ space sprays or airborne methods for controlling mosquitoes. Application of larvicide pellets is done by hand to stagnant bodies of water and is effective 10 – 14 days. Application typically occurs May through September, dependent on moisture levels and temperature. Most parks with large bodies of water, such as Expo and Utah Park, are designed to allow water to flow through and also have aerators to move the water. Since mosquitoes will not lay eggs in moving water, these ponds do not need treatment.

What can I do to help control mosquitoes?

Many homeowners living near a park or greenbelt assume that the mosquitoes they see must come from these areas. In fact, homeowners must carefully inspect their own property for standing or stagnant water. Mosquitoes lay up to 250 eggs in still water, which hatch in 7 to 10 days. If overwatering and pooled or standing water is eliminated from the areas around your home weekly, many mosquitoes will be kept from breeding in the first place.

What is West Nile Virus (WNV)?

West Nile virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Common in Africa, west Asia and the Middle East for decades, it first appeared in the U.S. in 1999. Less than one percent of mosquitoes carry this virus and less than one percent of people infected with the virus will develop severe illness. West Nile Virus symptoms include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, stupor and disorientation. If you experience these symptoms, contact your health care provider immediately.

How is the virus spread?

The virus is carried long distances by infected birds and then spread locally by mosquitoes that bite infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then pass the virus to birds, humans and animals, particularly horses. Household pets do not spread the illness.

What if I find a dead bird? Does that mean the bird died from WNV?

Birds can die for a number of reasons including window strikes, pet attacks, attacks from other birds and wildlife or old age. If you find one dead bird, you can remove and dispose of it by picking it up with a shovel or gloves. Double bag the bird in plastic and dispose in trash. Wash your hands thoroughly after you dispose of the bird.

If you find a number of (more than one dozen) dead birds in a concentrated area, this may be a sign of illness. Contact Tri-County Health to report a large number (more than one dozen) of dead birds in a single location.



mosquito larvae

