

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Payette County Mosquito Abatement District
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West Nile Virus Infected Mosquitoes Found in Payette County

Fruitland, Idaho-- Mosquitoes collected in a trap on June 18, 2013, during routine surveillance within an area southwest of downtown Fruitland have tested positive for West Nile virus by Payette County's Mosquito Abatement Program, operated by Vector Disease Control International (VDCI).

“The positive sample consisted of a single pool containing 20 total *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes and was detected nearly a month earlier than in previous years. The early detection of WNV in mosquitoes is one of the primary reasons for our comprehensive adult mosquito surveillance program,” said Annabel Martinez, the Program's Director. “Furthermore, it allows us to focus our control efforts in areas determined to be at risk for WNV. Because early detection is important in helping control the spread of the virus as the summer progresses, mosquito traps are set throughout Payette County each week.”

In response to this finding, the abatement program is increasing mosquito surveillance in the area and continuing to locate and treat larvae infested waters. In addition, adulticide applications, made via truck-mounted sprayers, will be increased in the Fruitland area and will continue in those areas displaying heavy infestations of adult mosquitoes.

The Payette County Mosquito Abatement Board continues to urge county residents to take all appropriate actions necessary to avoid mosquito bites.

Residents are urged to take the following precautions to protect themselves from West Nile virus:

- DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using a repellent with an effective ingredient. Make sure to follow label directions.
- DRAIN all sources of standing water that may support mosquito-breeding habitats.
- DOOR and window screens should fit tight and be in good repair. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outdoors, since this is when mosquitoes are most active.
- DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors and mosquitoes are present.

West Nile virus can be transmitted to humans, horses and other animals by infected mosquitoes after the mosquitoes have bitten infected birds, which are the primary hosts of the virus. Most people bitten by West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes experience either no symptoms, or possibly a short period of mild flu-like symptoms. Symptoms of human West Nile virus infections typically begin within 14 days following the insect bite and consist of low-grade fever, muscle and joint aches, fatigue, and headaches. In rare but severe cases, symptoms can include high fever, neck pain, severe headache, a rash on the torso, and disorientation, which may be signs of encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). If such symptoms occur, residents should seek immediate medical attention from a physician. There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus infection; avoiding mosquito bites and a comprehensive integrated mosquito management program is the best prevention.

If you have any mosquito related questions, please contact VDCI at 208-642-6835.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit the following websites:

West Nile Virus Information

<http://www.westnile.idaho.gov>

<http://www.vdci.net>

Southwest District Health Web Page (A-Z Index)

<http://www.publichealthidaho.com> or <http://www.swdh.org>

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