



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Invasive Mosquito Species Identified in Shasta County

During the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District's (SMVCD) response for the initial detection of the invasive mosquito *Aedes aegypti* (Yellow Fever Mosquito), staff detected and identified another invasive mosquito within its boundaries; *Aedes albopictus* (Asian Tiger Mosquito). A collection of larvae from a standing water source in the same general area as the original invasive *Aedes* discovery were positively identified as *Aedes albopictus*. The *Aedes albopictus*, commonly known as the Asian Tiger Mosquito, was found near a central Shasta County neighborhood west of Highway 273/Market St and north of Lake Boulevard. The California Department of Public Health confirmed the invasive species detection.

"The concern with this find is the continuing expansion of the initial detection perimeter. Our response to *Aedes albopictus* is not different than our response to *Aedes aegypti*; however, the more we look, unfortunately the more we find," said Peter Bonkrude, District Manager. "We have now found several new areas near the original invasive *Aedes* detection that are also positive for *Aedes aegypti* and the detection of *Aedes albopictus* gives us broader concern. Our goal is still to determine the extent of the infestation for both species and to limit their spread."

SMVCD utilizes a science-based, data-driven approach to mosquito control. This Integrated Vector Management approach will include immature surveillance and control, like door to door inspections, as well as adult surveillance and control, which will include ultra-low volume spraying, barrier treatments and a variety of live mosquito trapping.

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Our Mission: "To protect the public's health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience and efficiency".

The *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes have been detected previously in other areas of California, but never in Shasta County. Until now, the furthest north detection of *Aedes albopictus* in California is Los Angeles County. *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* have the potential to transmit viruses such as chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, and Zika, that are not known to be transmitted by our native mosquitoes.

The public plays a critical role in helping to control the spread of this mosquito population. “This species is different than the ones we normally control; they prefer to live around people and breed in containers associated with homes. Eliminating all standing water regardless of size is essential to effective control,” says Peter Bonkrude.

Prevent Invasive Aedes development in your yard:

1. Inspect your yard for standing water sources and drain water that may have collected under potted plants, in bird baths, discarded tires, and any other items that could collect water;
2. Check your rain gutters and lawn drains to make sure they aren’t holding water and debris;
3. Check and clean any new containers that you bring home that may contain water. *Aedes aegypti* eggs can remain viable under dry conditions for months.

As with all mosquito issues, native and non-native, the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by implementing the **4 Ds** of protection:

- **D**rain any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, this includes flowerpots, old tires, and buckets. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- **D**efend yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **D**usk or Dawn, avoid outside activities.
- **D**ress in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

For information about invasive mosquitoes in California-

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Aedes-aegypti-and-Aedes-albopictus-mosquitoes.aspx>

For more information about SMVCD’s services, invasive mosquitoes, West Nile virus, or new emerging mosquito-borne diseases, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit www.ShastaMosquito.org.

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