



Shasta County West Nile Virus Task Force  
Contact: John Albright at 365-3768

Blood Source Northstate

Burney Basin Mosquito Abatement  
District

California Department of Food and  
Agriculture, division of Animal Health

Calif. Dept. of Public Health  
Vector Borne Disease Section

Haven Humane

Northern California Veterinary  
Medical Association

Pine Grove Abatement District

Redding Animal Regulation

Shasta County:

- Administrative Office
- Agriculture Commissioner
- Department of Resource  
Management, division of  
Environmental Health
- Public Health
- Sheriff's Animal Regulation

Shasta Blood Center

Shasta Mosquito and Vector  
Control District

Shasta Wildlife Rescue and  
Rehabilitation

## NEWS RELEASE

July 30, 2010

### DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN SHASTA COUNTY

*Shasta County Has Done Much to Prepare*

Shasta County, CA – One dead House Finch retrieved by the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control was tested at U.C. Davis and confirmed to be positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The House Finch was found on July 15, 2010 in Redding.

“The WNV positive dead bird is an early indicator that we are in West Nile Virus season, and people need to prevent mosquito bites,” said John Albright of the Shasta MVCD. The virus was introduced into Shasta County by birds and is transmitted from birds to humans by mosquitoes. The three mosquito abatement districts in Shasta County use a variety of strategies to reduce mosquito populations in their districts.

West Nile Virus has infected people in Shasta County every year from 2004-2008. West Nile Virus can be serious, and during the summer and fall, Shasta County residents need to remember to make effective mosquito repellent a part of their regular outdoor routine.

“West Nile Virus disease is uncommon, but if you have symptoms including high fever, severe headache and stiff neck, contact your health care provider immediately,” said Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH, Health Officer for Shasta County Public Health. “We need to put West Nile Virus prevention into our everyday routine.”

The best way to avoid the virus is to prevent mosquito bites using the Four Ds:

- DRAIN standing water around the house weekly since it’s where mosquitoes lay eggs. This includes tires, cans, flower pots, clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, toys and puddles.

- MORE -

Dedicated to protecting Shasta County from West Nile Virus

## **Dead bird positive for West Nile Virus in Shasta County, page 2**

- DUSK & DAWN are when mosquitoes that carry the virus are most active, so limit outdoor activities or take precautions to prevent mosquito bites.
- DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellants. Always follow label instructions carefully.
- DRESS in long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk or in areas where mosquitoes are active.

Three other mosquito repellants besides DEET are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for use as repellants on skin and clothing: Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, and IR3535. Always follow instructions on containers carefully.

“West Nile Virus has been found in all regions of Shasta County in past years. All residents and visitors need to take extra precautions against mosquito bites,” said John Albright.

To help fight West Nile Virus in Shasta County:

- Report significant mosquito problems to Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (serving limited areas of the greater Redding area) at 365-3768 or [www.shastamosquito.org](http://www.shastamosquito.org), the Burney Mosquito Abatement District (serving Burney Basin) at 335-2133, the Pine Grove Mosquito Abatement District (serving Fall River Valley) at 336-5740.
- Report recently dead birds to the State hotline at 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or visit the web site at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). Though not all birds can be picked up for testing, all calls help track the virus. Dead birds should be picked up with a plastic bag and not touched.
- Vaccinate your horses. WNV mortality is high in unvaccinated horses. Vaccine must be given before the animal is exposed.
- Pick up educational materials and sample DEET repellant packets, while supplies last, at Shasta County HHSA regional offices, especially if you are at high risk for complications. People over the age of 50, and people with certain chronic conditions, have a higher chance of getting sick from West Nile Virus. Call Public Health for the location nearest to you.

For more information about West Nile Virus, contact Shasta County Public Health at 225-5591 or visit [www.shastahhsa.net](http://www.shastahhsa.net).

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