

Press Release
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Fight the Bite

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week Begins Sunday, June 19

Sacramento, CA. – June 8, 2022 – As June approaches each year, public health officials remind residents that the yearly onslaught of mosquitoes and their bites is just around the corner, and in many areas these fierce pests are already peaking.

In recognition of the upcoming National Mosquito Control Awareness Week (June 19 - June 25, 2022), the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) has some general information and tips to help you avoid bites from these vicious blood-suckers.

In any given county within the United States, there are typically more than 30 different types, or species, of mosquitoes. The differences between these species can be very small, but at the same time, they can be quite dramatic. For instance, some species of mosquitoes never bite people, rather they prefer birds or amphibian hosts. Certain mosquito species prefer to feed during the daytime, while others feed at night. Regardless of these differences, all mosquito species have a similar life cycle that is dependent upon water.

Standing water, bare skin and dark clothing are three things that attract mosquitoes. AMCA recommends people follow the three D's to keep mosquitoes away:

- *Drain:* Empty out water containers at least once per week
- *Dress:* Wear long sleeves, long pants, and light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- *Defend:* Properly apply an EPA-registered repellent such as DEET, picaridin, IR 3535 or oil of lemon-eucalyptus

One of the primary keys to effectively minimize mosquito activity around your home is to remove any source of standing water. Many mosquito-producing areas are large and extensive and can only be treated with specialized equipment and methods by trained employees of your local mosquito abatement district or agency.

According to AMCA's Technical Advisor Daniel Markowski, "There are many things that each homeowner can do to reduce the mosquitoes found in their backyard and neighborhood. Essentially, all standing water should be eliminated."

Dispose of all useless containers and those that are saved should be turned upside down. Tires, especially, can readily breed thousands of mosquitoes. Recycling containers should have holes drilled into their

bottom to allow for drainage of rainwater or tight-fitting lids. Roof gutters and drainage ditches should be maintained and cleared of debris.

Fish will readily eat mosquitoes and, therefore, should be placed in ornamental ponds. The water in bird baths, fountains, and troughs should be changed weekly. Swimming pools and wading pools should be kept emptied when not in use and covered so that water cannot collect in them (or the cover). Similarly, boats should be covered or turned over for storage. Finally, properly screening windows and doors will help keep mosquitoes and other biting insects outside your home or patio.

“Encouraging your neighbors to also eliminate sources on their own property can be critical to a community-wide mosquito control program,” says Markowski. “Remember, though, mosquitoes are more than just a nuisance. Their bites can spread diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus”.

Mosquitoes are responsible for causing more human suffering than any other animal. Therefore, we must all be prepared to prevent mosquitoes from developing and protect ourselves when they are around through sustained safe and effective mosquito control measures and through the use of protective personal repellents.

AMCA stresses mosquito-borne diseases do not only affect humans – they also kill countless birds, reptiles, dogs, horses and endangered species each year. Awareness of these diseases – including canine heartworm, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and Western Equine Encephalitis – is another important component of mosquito control the general public must embrace.

Public health officials recommend working together, and support our local mosquito control professionals, we can have a healthy and mosquito free summer for ourselves, our family and our pets.

About the American Mosquito Control Association

The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) is an international not-for-profit public service association. With over 1,200 members worldwide, AMCA services are provided mainly to public agencies and their principal staff members engaged in mosquito control, mosquito research and related activities. The membership extends to 53 countries and includes individuals and public agencies engaged in mosquito control, mosquito research and related activities.

For more information on National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, please visit AMCA online at www.mosquito.org. Follow AMCA on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn @AMCAmosquito.

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