



FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP CONTROL MOSQUITOS

If you're a City of San Fernando resident, then you know summer is a fun time in your city. From events at your local parks to backyard BBQs, the heat won't stop you from having a good time. However, summertime fun can be interrupted by uninvited visitors: blood-sucking, disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes and warm weather go hand-in-hand. This is especially apparent with the warm winter and spring we experienced this year in Southern California. As temperatures warm, the threat of West Nile virus increases. West Nile virus is a potentially dangerous disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can lead to death in humans, horses, birds, and wildlife. In milder cases, patients experience fevers, body aches, and headaches. In more severe cases, patients can experience coma and paralysis.

"People may think mosquitoes are just annoyances," says Mayor Robert C. Gonzales. "But in San Fernando and surrounding communities, they can pose a very serious threat to our health."

Luckily, the City of San Fernando has been working with the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District (GLACVCD) to make sure residents understand the risks. GLACVCD has specialized staff that monitor diseases and control mosquitoes and other vectors that pose a threat to our health and comfort.

"Everything you learned about West Nile virus last year, will be put to the test again this year," says Levy Sun, public information officer for GLACVCD.

While GLACVCD and the City of San Fernando are fighting mosquitoes in parks, street gutters and public areas, we need your help to control them around your home. Here are some ways you can help:

- GLACVCD offers a free service to inspect areas and properties with mosquito issues. Are you getting bit? Do you notice any mosquito breeding in your neighborhood? Call 562-944-9656 or submit a service request online at www.glacvcd.org.
- Do you notice dirty, green pools or other potential mosquito breeding sources in your community? Let us know! GLACVCD does free inspections and can help many people solve mosquito issues. Call us at 562-944-9656 or online at www.glacvcd.org.
- If families are outdoors when mosquitoes are active, apply insect repellent. Just because you don't see them, doesn't mean mosquitoes won't find you! The most effective repellents contain active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or Oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD). Always apply according to label instructions.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.

Invite GLACVCD to your next event at a church, fair or organization. In addition to protecting public health, the District loves to educate the community! Call them at 562-944-9656 or email commaffairs@glacvcd.org.