

REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN PRESS RELEASE

May 26, 2010

Mosquito Control: Helicopter Flights and Mosquito Bites

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen West Nile virus Protection Program and regular Mosquito Control Program started in April and will continue until late August. Property owners have been contacted for permission to access and treat sites on foot and by helicopter. Helicopter applications allow the programs to effectively and efficiently treat large sites and sites that are difficult to access on foot.

The Mosquito Control Crew tests standing water for the presence of mosquito larvae. If the site requires treatment, a granular, biological *Bti* pesticide is applied to the water. *Bti* targets mosquito and biting black fly larvae. It affects midges to a lesser degree. The application of this pesticide does not adversely affect fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, or other insects.

Reduce Breeding Sites and Protect Yourself

Residents and businesses are urged to remove standing water from rain gutters, eaves troughs, pails, rain barrel tops, tarps, pool and hot-tub covers, tires, roof-depressions and all other items collecting water. Refresh water in birdbaths, pets' water dishes, and troughs at least twice each week. Protect yourself by not allowing your yard to become a mosquito nursery.

Protect yourself by limiting your time outdoors at dawn and dusk; the mosquitoes that can carry West Nile virus are most active at these times. Wear light-coloured pants and long-sleeved shirts. Use mosquito repellents as directed on the bottle. Horses are especially sensitive to the West Nile virus. Horse owners should contact their veterinarian to learn more about what they can do to protect their animals.

Report Mosquito Habitat

If you have standing water or floodwater ponds, sloughs, marshes, water pooling in fields or other mosquito breeding sites on your property, the Mosquito Control Crew would like to hear from you. Please call 250-490-4211 to report a potential mosquito habitat site.

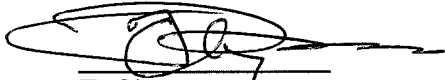
Catchbasins

Strata and commercial catchbasins will be added to the 2010 West Nile virus Protection Program. If you are a strata member, you live in a strata building, or own or manage a commercial property with catchbasins please contact the Mosquito Control Crew at 250-490-4211.

Tire Collection Program

The 2010 Tire Collection Program will begin soon. Tires left outside collect water and provide a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. Please contact the RDOS Tire Collection hotline at 250-490-4211 and we will pick up your regular-sized, car and truck tires free of charge. Please ensure tires are clean, unrimmed, and easily accessible. Tires are also accepted at the Campbell Mountain Landfill in Penticton, and at the Oliver, Keremeos, and Princeton landfills.

Please call **250-490-4211** for further information.



T. Chapman
RDOS Board Vice-Chair

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