

San Joaquin County West Nile Virus Task Force



San Joaquin Operational Area
San Joaquin Mosquito and Vector Control District
San Joaquin County:
- Public Health Services - Agricultural Commissioner
- Office of Emergency Services - Environmental Health Department

INFORMATION SHEET

Connie Cassineto, *Information Officer*
San Joaquin County (209) 468-3417
pg: (209) 983-7314

Aaron Devencenzi, *Information Officer*
SJC Mosquito & Vector Control
District
(209) 368-5132 or 982-4675

August 31, 2005

AERIAL SPRAYING Questions & Answers

Why is aerial spraying of mosquitoes taking place?

West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquito collections, wild birds, sentinel chickens, horses, and humans in San Joaquin County. San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District has determined that increased aerial spraying is needed to lower the mosquito population and thereby lower the number of people who will become ill with WNV infection. Aerial spraying, along with people protecting themselves from mosquito bites, can help prevent spread of West Nile Virus to humans.

What pesticide is being used, and how safe is it?

A product called Evergreen Crop Protection EC 60-6 is being used. It is a combination of the active ingredients pyrethrin and piperonyl butoxide. Evergreen Crop Protection EC 60-6 has been tested and found to be of very little risk to human health and the environment when used according to label directions. The spray material is the type used by homeowners, gardeners, pet owners, and others for insect control. The risk associated with exposure to the doses of pesticide being used is smaller than the risk of people getting severely ill from West Nile Virus.

-see back-

San Joaquin County West Nile Virus Task Force

How much pesticide is used?

A very small amount of Evergreen Crop Protection EC 60-6, about four teaspoons per acre, is applied as a fine mist by aircraft sprayers. The mist kills flying adult mosquitoes. Most of the mist never reaches the ground (only 14% in an official study done in Sacramento by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.) In addition, Evergreen Crop Protection EC 60-6 on the ground is broken down by sunlight in a matter of hours during the summer.

Do special precautions need to be taken by people in the spray area?

According to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation these pesticides have been evaluated for this use and been found to pose minimal risks to human health. If an individual wants to take action to reduce exposure, the following steps may be taken:

- Stay indoors when spraying in your area is taking place.
- Close windows and turn off window-unit air conditioners.
- Consult your doctor if you have special health conditions or concerns.

Where can the most up-to-date information be found?

- For the latest spray schedule check online at www.sjgov.org/oes.
- For updated recorded information call the San Joaquin County WNV Hotline at (209) 469-8200.
- Listen to the news on the radio and TV and read your local newspaper.

####