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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBERS OF MOSQUITOES DUE TO RAINS

LAKEPORT, Calif. – Have you noticed more mosquitoes than usual this spring?

The heavy rainfall this year has left water standing throughout our county, creating the perfect habitat for a record number of mosquitoes.

Jamesina Scott, Ph.D., the District Manager and Research Director of the Lake County Vector Control District explained “We’re receiving a lot of requests for mosquito control. The abundant rains provided a lot of mosquito sources, and we’re getting out as fast as we can, but many of our treatments depend on the right weather conditions, and the weather this spring has limited the nights we’ve been able to treat for the adult mosquitoes—mainly the treehole mosquitoes and the snowmelt mosquitoes.”

She described the District’s program, “When you call for service, we will take your information and the District’s trained, certified technicians and scientists will evaluate the problem and determine the best response.”

Two mosquito species are causing most of the problem right now: the Western Treehole Mosquito and the Snowpool Mosquito. Both species are unusually abundant this year.

The **Western Treehole Mosquito**, also known by its scientific name *Aedes sierrensis*, is a small, black and white mosquito that comes out near sunset, but will also bite if you venture into shaded areas. The mosquito larvae grow in the water that collects in cavities within the oaks, but will also inhabit water trapped in other trees like walnuts and madrones. The treehole mosquito is an aggressive human biter, but a poor flier so setting an oscillating fan out on your patio when it starts to bite may offer some relief. These mosquitoes are found throughout Lake County.

The **Snowpool Mosquito**, *Aedes increpitus*, is poorly named for our area; at higher elevations it develops in the pools of water left by melting snow, but locally, this species comes from puddles filled by rainwater or high lake levels. The adult mosquitoes are large, and usually emerge in March and April. Snowpool mosquitoes are aggressive human-biting mosquitoes, and strong fliers that may travel a few miles from where they hatched. They are found in many areas of Lake County.

Another recent common question is about treating the Rice Flies, a non-biting midge that looks like a mosquito but cannot bite. In recent weeks, there has been a large emergence of Rice Flies from Clear Lake, and these insects are seen forming large humming swarms near sunset or resting on walls by the thousands. Treating for mosquitoes doesn’t affect the Rice Flies, “We have people who want us to spray for the Rice Flies, and we have to explain that those insects will die within a day, so it makes no sense to spend your taxpayer money to spray an insect with such a short lifespan, in contrast with mosquitoes, which can live for several weeks” explained Dr. Scott.

Dr. Scott shared that many residents are asking what they can do to help with the mosquito problem this year. She recommends that you prevent mosquitoes from growing on your property by:

- **Dumping out containers of water.** Buckets, wheelbarrows, and children's toys are obvious sources, but other mosquito sources are easily overlooked, like the water that collects in tarps covering woodpiles or vehicles, or the water trapped in clogged rain gutters on your roof.
- **Maintain your swimming pool and spa** in good working order
- **Pick up Mosquitofish** from our office if you have a pool or spa that is out of service or for your water garden, livestock watering troughs, a pond (natural or ornamental), large fountain, or other water feature

And if mosquitoes are biting and you can't go inside,

- **Wear long sleeves and pants**
- **Use a mosquito repellent** that contains Picaridin, IR 3535, DEET, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) answers many FAQs about mosquito repellents at <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/fag/repellent.html> The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has an online tool to help you find the right repellent for you and your family at <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>
- **Check window and door screens** and repair any holes to keep mosquitoes outside
- **Cut down weeds** to eliminate a place for adult mosquitoes to rest
- **Contact the Lake County Vector Control District to request mosquito control services.** If you are a Certified Organic Farmer registered with the Lake County Department of Agriculture, we have mosquito control products that comply with your certification requirements.

The District is fixing technical difficulties with its online service request. If you have a mosquito problem, please contact the Lake County Vector Control District by

Phone: 707-263-4770 7:30 AM-4:00 PM, M-F.

Email your Name, Daytime Phone Number, and Physical Address to [info@LCVCD.org](mailto:info@LCVCD.org)

Fax us your Name, Daytime Phone Number, and Physical Address at 707-263-3653

Service may be delayed if we are unable to contact you.

The Lake County Vector Control District is a public health agency that protects Lake County residents and visitors from mosquitoes and other vectors of disease. More information about the District and its program is available on their website at [www.LCVCD.org](http://www.LCVCD.org).

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