

More West Nile virus mosquito centers identified in Butte

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Posted: 07/22/2014 04:45:35 PM PDT [0 Comments](#)

OROVILLE >> West Nile virus appears to be a growing issue in Butte County.

A release Tuesday by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District says less than a week after the presence of West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes had been confirmed, the agency identified eight more "mosquito pools," groups of the insects.

Areas of the infected mosquitoes include four pools found southwest of Palermo, two in south Chico, and the final two were collected west of Dayton, according to the press release.

"With increasing mosquito populations, and the detection and widespread distribution of West Nile virus within Butte County, the district urges residents to take all precautions necessary to drain any and all unneeded standing water, report any suspected mosquito-breeding sites to the district, and to protect themselves from the bites of mosquitoes," the release said.

Matthew Ball, district manager, said, "Once the adult mosquito populations have been found carrying the virus, the mosquitoes then have the capability of infecting our residents.

"It's imperative that residents assist with the prevention of mosquito breeding by inspecting and eliminating all standing water from their properties and to protect themselves from the bite of mosquitoes."

The vector control district recommends people to use mosquito repellents when outside and wear long sleeves and pants especially in the mornings and evenings when mosquitoes are most active.

West Nile virus has been identified in Butte County every year since its arrival in 2004. Since then, 128 residents have been infected with the virus. Seven have died from the illness.

In addition to humans, birds and horses are also affected by the virus. Among birds and horses it is often fatal.

People finding birds that may have been dead for less than 48 hours are asked to call 1-877-968-2473 to report them.

The vector control district can be reached by phone at 533-6038 or 342-7350 or online at www.BCMVCD.com.

