

# Butte County resident dies from West Nile Virus infection

By [Rick Silva](#), Paradise Post

Posted: 09/25/15, 4:40 PM PDT | Updated: 2 days ago

Butte County Public Health Department announced on Friday that a senior citizen from Butte County has died due to complications of West Nile Virus infection. It said that the person, who is from the northern part of the county, is the first human WNV death in 2015 in the county. The individual reportedly became ill in late August and the infection was confirmed in early September as WNV neuro-invasive disease. The county said that as of Sept. 23 there are 45 cases of WNV illness confirmed in Butte County, with 28 of the cases occurring in July.

The county notes that the virus has infected males and females in almost equal numbers. It pointed out that although people 50 years and older are at higher risk of the virus, nearly half of reported WNV cases in Butte County are in people ages 5-49 years. People age 60 and older experienced the most number of severe cases resulting in WNV neuro-invasive disease.

The county also says that children can also suffer from WNV neuro-invasive disease. Four children under the age of 18 experienced this severe form of the disease.

People infected with WNV generally fall into three categories: no symptoms (seven to eight out of 10 people infected); fever/illness (one in five people infected); and severe illness or neuro-invasive disease that can include encephalitis or meningitis (less than one in 150 people infected). For those who develop WNV neuro-invasive disease, recovery can take weeks or months. Neuro-invasive disease is rarely fatal.

WNV season typically lasts through October and is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Residents should continue to reduce the risk of infection by practicing the “Three Ds”:

**DEET** — Use a proven insect repellent containing DEET, picaradin, lemon eucalyptus oil, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. Always use according to label instructions. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.

**DAWN AND DUSK** — Mosquitoes that carry WNV bite in the early morning and evening. Wear protective clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

**DRAIN** — Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. For standing water, fountains, ponds, etc., consider adding “Mosquito Dunks” or mosquito fish, which feed on

mosquito larvae. Report unmaintained swimming pools to the local Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 342-7350 or (530) 533-6038.