

WEST NILE VIRUS

The approaching summer brings thoughts of fun outdoor activities with family and friends. The South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District would like to remind everyone that along with these outdoor activities comes the possibility of being bitten by mosquitoes, some of which do transmit West Nile Virus, St. Louis and Western Equine Encephalitis or Dog Heartworm.

Symptoms of West Nile Virus include: fever, headache, body aches, rash (generally but not always), swollen lymph glands, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, and rarely death.

You can help protect yourself and others by:

- Eliminating any standing water in your yard, neighborhood or business property (ie. dispose of old cans, tires, buckets); empty children's toys such as buckets, wagons, and wading pools; clean out bird baths, wheelbarrows, clogged roof drains and gutters; avoid over watering lawns and gardens; and dump horse troughs weekly
- Stay indoors whenever possible (especially between dusk and dawn)
- When outdoors wear light colored, loose fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible
- Apply repellents containing "Deet" or "Picaridin" (check label for proper applications)
- Repair holes in window and door screens

West Nile Virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. A mosquito becomes infected by feeding on a wild bird that has WNV in its blood. The virus develops inside the mosquito's body. The mosquito then transmits the virus in its saliva when it bites a second person or animal.

For those living in the old Cottonwood Mall vicinity, we will be inspecting the newly created ponds on that site weekly.

Please contact the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District website at www.soslvmosquito.org, the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association website at www.umaa.org or the Salt Lake Valley Health Department at www.slvhealth.org if you have questions or concerns.