

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Contact:
Jason Farned
Public Information Officer
Phone: (626) 814-9466
E-mail: jfarned@sgvmosquito.org

Asian tiger mosquito infestation expands in San Gabriel Valley

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District continues their efforts to eradicate the invasive Asian tiger mosquito as the infestation area expands.

West Covina, CA - July 31, 2014

In September 2011 a vector control specialist from San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (SGVMVCD) identified *Aedes albopictus*, commonly known as the Asian tiger mosquito in the city of El Monte. At the end of the year the area infested by this invasive mosquito was estimated at 1,700 acres, covering parts of both El Monte and the city of South El Monte, which is in the jurisdiction of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD). Since then, both agencies have been conducting an all-out assault to eradicate *Aedes albopictus*.

The Asian tiger mosquito is a small black mosquito with white stripes that bites aggressively during the day. It is not native to the United States and was brought here in shipments of goods from places where the mosquito was well established. In the United States, *Aedes albopictus* dramatically affects the way people use the outdoors. Besides being a public nuisance this mosquito is a vector of several diseases including dengue and chikungunya. Recently, chikungunya virus is sweeping through the Caribbean, infecting hundreds of thousands of people. As of July 22, 2014 almost 500 travel related cases have occurred in the U.S. This is significant because these infected travelers could potentially infect *Aedes albopictus* if it present where they live. This has already happened in Florida where as of July 22 two cases of chikungunya have been acquired locally.

From 2011 to 2013 the infested area increased from 1,700 to 5,200 acres. Currently the area has expanded further to slightly less than 7,500 acres and includes El Monte and very small adjacent areas of Arcadia, Irwindale, Duarte, Monrovia, Temple City and Baldwin Park. Until now, the District was able to focus their eradication and education efforts just in one city. As the mosquito crosses city borders it will become more of a challenge. "The increase in area where we have confirmed Asian tiger mosquito activity is consistent with previous years so our residents should not focus on the fact that it now affects seven cities instead of just two. It is more important to change our behavior if we wish to have any chance of successfully managing *Ae. albopictus*" said District Manager Kenn Fujioka. "Everyone must prevent mosquitoes from developing on their property and protect themselves from mosquito bites. Our greatest allies in the fight against the Asian tiger mosquito have been the residents of El Monte. They have truly done an amazing job of taking responsibility for their properties and removing sources of water. We need to spread the word and educate everyone so they can protect themselves and their properties against the Asian tiger mosquito." The District is asking that all residents inspect their property every few days for standing water and DUMP and DRAIN containers before mosquitoes have time to develop. Residents are also encouraged to call the District (626) 814-9466 if they see the small black mosquito, if they are being bitten during the day or if they witness excessive mosquito activity.

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Asian Tiger Mosquito Infestation Expansion Map

Confirmed Asian tiger mosquito activity 2011-2014

Extended surveillance area

Outside of District

