
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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SANTA ANA WINDS MAY HELP FIGHT INVASIVE TIGER MOSQUITO

West Covina, CA (November 30, 2011) –

A High Wind Warning has been posted by the National Weather Service for the San Gabriel Valley beginning late Wednesday and continuing through Saturday. Very strong Santa Ana winds are expected which may provide ideal conditions to aid in the fight against the invasive Asian tiger mosquito.

This mosquito thrives in the moist, humid microclimates created in southland backyards by unsuspecting residents. Lush yards dominated by tropical ornamentals and potted plants require frequent watering and can raise the relative humidity in that yard substantially, providing the necessary microclimate this species needs to survive in southern California.

In experiments conducted by scientific staff at the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District, ecologists have found that eggs laid on the edges of containers by this invasive species appear to be susceptible to desiccation if exposed to drying conditions in this area. "We are pleased that Mother Nature is offering her assistance," notes Vector Ecologist Tera Sorvillo.

District experts are asking residents to help us take advantage of the opportunity presented by the Santa Ana winds and place all containers where eggs may be present out into the sun and wind so the eggs can be killed:

- Walk around your yard and look for any containers that are or have been holding water (old tires, buckets, decorative pots, plant saucers, etc.)
- Empty out the water, and place those containers in the sun in areas *not* protected from the coming winds
- Be cautious and weigh down any lightweight items that might be blown away by gusty winds
- After the winds, remember to move those containers inside a garage or shed during the winter months so they will not fill up with rainwater with the next storm

Vector control districts in Los Angeles County are committed to doing everything in their power to eradicate this invasive mosquito from our communities.

For more information, or to request service, contact:

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District at 626-814-9466 or www.sgvmosquito.org

Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District 562-944-9656 or www.glacvcd.org

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