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PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release

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West Nile Contributes to Death of Twin Falls County Resident

TWIN FALLS- South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) officials confirm that West Nile may have contributed to the recent death of an elderly male residing in Twin Falls County, prompting health officials to remind south central Idaho residents to “Fight the Bite” of mosquitoes. This season, there have been a total of three cases reported throughout the state, this being the first death.

“We know that West Nile may have serious health consequences but it is particularly sad when it results in death,” said Rene LeBlanc, District Director for SCPHD. “Although mosquito activity has slowed because of cooler nights, people still need to take precautions—especially those people over the age of 50 or with underlying medical conditions,” he said.

Four out of five people infected with West Nile do not show symptoms. However, people with symptoms may experience fever, headaches, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, eye pain, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. Symptoms typically occur 3 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.

Public Health officials continue to remind individuals to take personal responsibility to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites. Remember to:

DRAIN any standing water on your property that may produce mosquitoes.

DAWN and **DUSK** are times for people to avoid the outdoors.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using an insect repellent (follow label directions).

DOOR and window screens should be in good condition to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of West Nile should contact their local health care provider. Individuals may also obtain information by visiting www.phd5.idaho.gov or www.westnile.idaho.gov.

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