

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TFCPAD: Aaron Ursenbach, manager@tfcpad.org

West Nile Virus Found Along Border of Twin Falls and Jerome Counties

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – West Nile virus was recently found along the Snake River on the border of Twin Falls County and Jerome County. The Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFCPAD) discovered the mosquitoes carrying the virus. South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) joins TFCPAD in warning residents to act now to avoid catching the disease.

“Mosquitos are very active this time of year and they love to nest in backyards if given the chance,” said Aaron Ursenbach, Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District Manager. “Now is the time to reduce mosquito habitat on your property and avoid mosquitoes when they are most active at dusk and dawn.”

Public Health officials remind residents to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites by:

- Using insect repellent with an EPA-registered active ingredient like DEET, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitos carrying the virus are most active.
- Wearing loose-fitting clothes with long sleeves and pants.
- Installing screens on all windows and doors.
- Checking for, and draining, any standing water around your home every three to six days. This includes clogged rain gutters, pools, bird baths, old tires and other outside water features.

“West Nile virus can be painful and uncomfortable,” said Jacob Ward, SCPHD Epidemiologist. “In some cases, people can develop serious, and even fatal, health side effects from the disease. Reducing your risk of bites also reduces your risk of catching this disease.”

Typical symptoms of the virus include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. People over 50 years old with serious medical conditions are at greater risk for serious illness from the virus. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system. Currently, there have been no human cases of West Nile virus reported this summer across SCPHD’s eight county region.

More information on mosquito abatement is available on the TFCPAD website at: tfcpad.org/mosquito

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