



South Central Public Health District
1020 Washington Street North
Twin Falls, ID 83301
866-710-9775
www.phd5.idaho.gov



7/28/2023

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Contact: Aaron Ursenbach - Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District

Tanis Maxwell - South Central Public Health

Mosquito Carrying West Nile Virus Found in Twin Falls County

A mosquito tested positive for West Nile virus in Twin Falls County on 7/26/2023. The Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFCPAD) discovered the mosquito 7 miles Northwest of Buhl on the river's edge and county line. South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) joins TFCPAD in warning residents to act now to avoid catching the disease.

“Now is the time to reduce mosquito habitat on your property and avoid mosquitoes when they are most active at dusk and dawn” said Aaron Ursenbach with the TFCPAD. If you have something that needs to be treated you can call them or visit their website at <https://www.tfcpad.org>.

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 Tanis Maxwell, SCPHD Public Health Program Manager “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. More information is available on the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile>.