

Community Aerial Mosquito Control Applications Planned for Empire and the Rural West of Modesto

Modesto, CA: East Side Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled aerial mosquito control applications for approximately 3,048 acres over Empire and the rural west communities of Modesto. The application aims at reducing the number of nuisance mosquitoes and limit the risk of local transmission of mosquito-borne viruses including West Nile virus among the *Culex* species occurring in these areas. The aerial treatments are planned for Thursday August 20, 2026 between 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm, and be rescheduled for the same time on Friday August 21, 2026 in case of inclement weather.

The aerial adult mosquito control application will use Dibrom® applied at rate of 0.61 fluid ounces per acre targeting adult mosquitoes. Vector Disease Control, Inc (VDCI), a mosquito control company operating out of Sacramento, California shall conduct the applications. “The effort of the District working with VDCI in conducting these treatments has greatly reduced occurrence of West Nile virus cases within the cities in Stanislaus County north of Tuolumne River over the past two years,” said District Manager Wakoli Wekesa. The District may not routinely publish press releases for future applications however members of the public are advised to check our [website](#) for maps of new treatment areas by VDCI weekly through September.

Residents in the targeted areas of the north and northeast of Modesto per the [attached map](#) should take the necessary precaution of keeping windows closed and, if possible, staying indoors once the aircrafts fly over their neighborhood for a few minutes. Any impacts of the product are temporary and transient clearing in a few minutes. Additional information and the intended spray area can be found on the District website; also, please call the District at (209) 522-4098 or visit www.eastsidemosquito.com.

How residents can help reduce mosquitoes:

- Dump and Drain Standing Water: Mosquitoes lay eggs in and near standing water. Mosquitoes only need a tablespoon of water to lay eggs. Potted plant saucers are the leading breeding source for the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Limit the number of places mosquitoes can breed by dumping and draining items that hold water.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Wear insect repellent. [EPA-registered ingredients](#) such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 (as directed on the product label).
- Check window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.