MOSQUITOS

and other

Insects & Vectors

What to do...

&

Who to call...

Los Angeles County West Vector
 & Vector-Borne Disease Control District
6750 Centinela Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 915-7370
www.lawestvector.org
What is a Vector?
Any insect (or other arthropod) capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities and County Areas Served by the District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agoura Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calabasas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culver City</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Segundo</td>
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<td>Hawthorne</td>
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<td>Hermosa Beach</td>
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<td>Hidden Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inglewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawndale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lomita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles City*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*Portions of Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County)
MOSQUITOES

Who to Call
- Contact the District at (310) 915-7370:
  - If you are bothered by mosquitoes
  - For assistance with mosquito breeding sources
  - For free mosquito fish
- Contact your doctor if you suspect you have West Nile virus or any other mosquito-borne disease

Mosquito Life Cycle

Eggs
- Laid in clusters called rafts, which float on the surface of standing water
- Some species lay eggs individually or at the water line of natural and artificial containers. Eggs hatch within days after contact with water.

Larvae
- Develop in standing water
- Feed on organic matter

Pupae
- Resting stage
- Does not feed

Adults
- Rest on the surface until strong enough to fly, mate and feed
- Only the females bite to obtain blood

How Quickly do Mosquitoes Multiply?

Unchecked, one female mosquito can produce 8 million new biting mosquitoes in only 3 weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>1 Mosquito</th>
<th>7 Days</th>
<th>14 Days</th>
<th>21 Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>8 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mistaken for Mosquitoes

Mosquito
- Females can bite and can transmit diseases
  - Length: ¼” to ½”

Crane Fly
- Does not bite
- Does not eat mosquitoes
  - Length: 1” to 1 ½”

Chironomid Midge
- Does not bite
- Seen in swarms along rivers, lakes, ponds, and channels
  - Length: ⅛” to ¼”

Black Fly
- Females can bite but do not have any human public health significance in California
  - Length: ¼” to ¾”
MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

Diseases Locally Transmitted:
- West Nile virus (WNV)
- St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE)
- Western Equine encephalomyelitis (WEE)
- Heartworm disease (affects dogs and cats)

Diseases With the Potential to be Transmitted Locally:
- Dengue fever
- Chikungunya
- Yellow fever
- Zika virus

West Nile Virus

Mosquitoes become infected with West Nile virus when they feed on infected birds. These infected mosquitoes can then transmit West Nile virus to humans and animals while biting during subsequent blood meals.

Approximately 80 percent of people who are infected with WNV will not show symptoms. Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected may develop West Nile fever symptoms:
- Flu-like symptoms
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Skin rash
- Swollen lymph glands

Less than 1% of infected people will develop West Nile neuroinvasive disease (WNND):
- High fever
- Neck stiffness
- Stupor
- Disorientation
- Coma
- Tremors
- Convulsions
- Paralysis
- Death (rare)

THE 5 Ds OF DEFENSE

1. Drain
   Remove standing water on your property

2. Deny
   Install tight-fitting screens on windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home

3. Dawn & Dusk
   Avoid spending time outside at dawn & dusk when mosquitoes are most active

4. Dress
   Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes and socks while outdoors

5. DEET
   Use an insect repellent containing 5% - 30% DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide). Alternative repellents containing picaridin, IR3535, citronella, or oil of lemon eucalyptus are also available. Read and follow all instructions on the label.
Look for anything that can hold water for more than 3 days

**Home and Garden Checklist**

- **Trash bins**: Keep lids shut tightly and remove water that accumulates inside. Drill several drain holes in the bottoms.
- **Boats**: Check and remove water weekly from boat covers.
- **Fountains and bird baths**: Clean or hose out weekly.
- **Rain gutters**: Keep clear of leaves and other debris.
- **Potted plant saucers**: Don’t overwater. Empty saucers regularly or drill holes in the bottom to allow drainage.
- **Water bowls for pets**: Rinse and fill 1 to 2 times a week.
- **Water troughs**: Stock with free mosquito fish from the District.
- **Swimming pools and spas**: Keep filter and pump maintained and running. Remove standing water from the bottom of empty pools and/or covers. Report neglected pools and spas to the District.
- **Ponds**: Stock ornamental ponds with free mosquitofish. Keep ponds clear and free of excess vegetation.
- **Rain barrels**: Cover tightly with a fine mesh screen.
- **Tires**: Recycle used tires or store in a covered area.
- **Chain link fence**: Cover hollow chain link fence posts with caps.
- **Leaky hoses**: Replace damaged hoses and repair leaky faucets and pipes.
- **Low areas**: Do not overwater lawns or gardens.
- **Drains**: Make sure that drains are not clogged by debris.
- **Sculptures**: Check for water that may collect in lawn ornaments. Drain or flush out weekly.
- **Wheelbarrows**: Remove water that collects inside or store upside down.
- **Tree holes**: Be aware that water can collect in tree holes and stumps.
- **Septic tanks**: Screen vent pipes with a fine mesh screen. Cover exposed tanks or manhole lids with plastic or a similar material and secure in place. Place several inches or more of dirt or sand over the top of the area.
- **Containers**: Store containers upside down, cover or place in a sheltered area.
**Mosquitofish**

*Gambusia affinis*, or “mosquitofish” is a small, surface feeding fish that is very effective in naturally controlling mosquito larvae without the use of chemicals. Mosquitofish are provided free of charge to residents of our District to place in artificial bodies of water on their property (i.e. ponds and fountains). Fish can be picked up during normal business hours.

**Characteristics of Mosquitofish**

- **Female**: Up to 2.5”
- **Male**: ~1.5”

**Breeding Behavior**
- Do not lay eggs; give birth to well developed, active young
- 50-100 young per brood
- Breed throughout the summer when mosquitoes are most active

**Feeding**
- Can eat up to 100 larvae per day
- Do not require feeding if natural food (larvae, bacteria, algae, etc.) is present
- Fish food or crushed dog food may be used to feed fish for a short time if natural food is scarce (i.e. in the winter or in newly constructed or recently cleaned ponds). Fish may not eat mosquito larvae if overfed.

**Care**
- Avoid using chlorine and other chemicals to clean the pond

**Where to Stock Mosquitofish**

Mosquitofish are suitable for man-made, permanent sources of water. Mosquitofish should never be placed in any natural habitat such as lakes, streams, rivers, or creeks. Their introduction into certain natural habitats may disrupt the existing ecological balance.

- Backyard Ponds
- Fountains
- Water Gardens
- Animal Troughs
- Unused or “Out of Order” Swimming Pools

**Living with Other Fish**
- Mosquitofish are compatible with most ornamental pond fish, including goldfish and koi
- If the mosquitofish are living with larger fish, they may need hiding places like rocks and vegetation
NEW INVASIVE MOSQUITO ALERT

Aedes Mosquitoes

Three new public health significant species are making Southern California their home: the Asian tiger (Aedes albopictus), yellow fever (Aedes aegypti), and Australian backyard (Aedes notoscriptus) mosquitoes. These mosquitoes adapt well to urban environments and can thrive when introduced.

Characteristics

- **Small**: Small with black and white stripes
- **Daytime Biter**: Aggressive daytime biter; but can also bite at night (most established mosquitoes in the area bite primarily at dawn and dusk only)
- **Breeds**: Breeding can occur both indoors and outdoors; primarily in plant saucers and other water filled containers
- **Eggs**: Eggs are laid above the water line in containers holding as little as a teaspoon of water. The eggs can survive dry conditions up to two (2) years and develop when water fills the container and finally touches the eggs.

Breeding Sites

- Flower pots and vases
- Plants that can hold water (bamboo or bromeliads)
- Plant saucers
- Buckets
- Clogged rain gutters
- Rain barrels
- Old tires
- Ponds
- Birdbaths
- Fountains
- Tree holes
- Tin cans

NEW INVASIVE MOSQUITO ALERT

Diseases Transmitted by Asian Tiger and Yellow Fever Mosquitoes

- Dengue fever
- Chikungunya
- Yellow fever
- Zika virus

These diseases normally occur in tropical and subtropical areas of the world, including Mexico, Central and S. America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. While the risk of local transmission of these viruses is extremely low in Southern California, infected travelers can bring these viruses into the area. Aedes mosquitoes become infected when they bite a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites.

Dengue (a.k.a. “breakbone fever”)

- High fever, headache, eye pain, severe muscle and joint pain
- Severe form can lead to internal bleeding, shock and death

Chikungunya

- Debilitating joint / muscle pain (can last months)
- Fever

Yellow Fever

- Nausea, vomiting and fever
- Severe disease can lead to jaundice, internal bleeding, shock, and death

Zika Virus

- Most infected people will not show symptoms
- Symptoms are usually mild and include fever, rash and eye redness
- See next page for more important details about the Zika virus

Heartworm Disease (Ae. notoscriptus)

Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal disease in dogs and cats. Mosquitoes transmit roundworms which can live in the heart, lungs and blood vessels. Always consult your veterinarian for treatment and prevention of heartworm disease.
The Zika virus, a mosquito-borne illness that may be linked to serious birth defects, was first identified in Uganda in 1947. Previous outbreaks were confined to a few small areas in Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, but the disease is now spreading rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Transmission
Primarily through bite of infected Aedes mosquito – which also spreads dengue and yellow fever. Evidence suggests that virus may also be transmitted by blood transfusion, sexual contact, or from mother to fetus during pregnancy, but these instances are rare.

Symptoms
Include fever, rash, joint pain, red eyes (conjunctivitis) and headache. About one in five people thought to develop symptoms – illness often mild, lasting from two to seven days. Most people fully recover without serious complications. Deaths are rare.

Treatment
No vaccine or antiviral medicine available. Patients advised to rest and drink plenty of fluids. Prevention entails avoiding contact with mosquitoes. Health officials recommend covering up, using insect repellent and keeping windows closed or screened.

Microcephaly
Zika Virus is suspected of causing brain defects in babies, resulting in reduced head size. Affected children may face learning disabilities or death if brain is very underdeveloped. Microcephaly cases in Brazil have surged from average of 163 per year to almost 4,000 since October 2015.

Guillain-Barre Syndrome
Rare disorder in which the body’s immune system attacks part of the nervous system, causing weakness and sometimes paralysis. Most patients recover, but syndrome can be deadly. Cases linked to Zika have been reported in Brazil and French Polynesia.

Travel Advice
The CDC recommends that pregnant women postpone travel to areas where Zika is spreading locally. List includes 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries – as far north as Mexico – plus Samoa and Cape Verde.

1) **Intake Opening**
Always keep the intake opening covered with tight fitting 1/16” screening. Hoses and downspouts should not feed directly into the rain barrel. An air gap is required so that water can pass through the screen and into the rain barrel.

2) **Overflow Spout**
This opening helps keep water from filling above the intake screen but if left open it creates an access point for mosquitoes to enter. Cover the overflow spout with tight fitting 1/16” screening.

3) **Spigot**
Because the spigot is usually 6” to 12” above the bottom of the barrel, when drained, the barrel will still hold water in the bottom below the spigot valve. The remaining water needs to be removed and the barrel should stay completely dry between rain events.

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Mosquitoes need water to lay their eggs and develop into adults. Rainwater collection devices create a perfect environment for mosquito breeding. Prevent mosquito breeding with these tips:

- **Collected Rainwater**
Collected rainwater should be used right away and the barrel should stay dry between rain events.

- **Regularly Check Barrel**
Regularly check the structural integrity of the barrel and quickly repair damaged or worn screens, clogged openings, and loose fitting lids or caps.

- **Mosquito Breeding**
If you believe mosquitoes are breeding in your barrel, remove all of the water immediately. This will kill any mosquito larvae breeding inside.

- **Scrub Inside of Barrel**
Periodically scrub the inside of the barrel with a scrub pad to remove mosquito eggs that may have attached to the inside walls.

- **Bacterial Larvicides**
The addition of "mosquito dunks" to the rain barrel water can help get rid of and prevent mosquito larvae. "Mosquito dunks" specifically target the mosquito larvae and does not cause harm to wildlife, pets, plants or humans when used in accordance with label instructions. "Mosquito dunks" can be purchased at any hardware or garden shop.
AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES (AHB)

Who to Call
- Multiple Stinging Emergencies
  Call 911
- Swarms / Hives (outside of a building)
  Contact the District at (310) 915-7370
- Swarms / Hives (inside of a building)
  Contact a licensed structural pest control operator

Mistaken Identities (Bees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africanized Honey Bee (AHB)</th>
<th>European Honey Bee (EHB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Look identical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nests in ground, trees &amp; structures</td>
<td>AHB can be more defensive if colony is disturbed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bumble Bee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nests in ground</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carpenter Bee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generally docile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nests in wood</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mistaken Identities (Wasps)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yellow Jacket</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggressive if disturbed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attracted to food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nests in ground, trees &amp; structures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper Wasp</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nests on or in structures (i.e. eaves)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mud Dauber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solitary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generally docile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small mud nests on or in structures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sand Wasp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solitary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generally docile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burrows in sand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AHB ACTIVITY & OUTDOOR SAFETY

Recognize Honey Bee Activity

Foraging Bees
Worker bees in search of pollen, nectar or water. Generally passive but can sting in defense if provoked.

Swarm
A resting cluster of bees in search of a new place to live. Stay away from swarms.

Hive
As a general rule, stay away from all hives. Bees are more likely to become defensive after their colony is established.

If You Discover a Swarm or Hive
- Avoid the area
- Do not disturb or tease bees
- Keep children and pets away from the area
- Do not control or remove the bees yourself
- Do not throw rocks, shoot, burn, spray water or use aerosol pesticides on the bees

Outdoor Safety
- Be alert outdoors
- Be cautious and respectful of bees and wasps
- Carry an allergy kit if allergic to stings
- Develop a safety plan for your home and yard
- Use care when entering sheds or outbuildings
- Examine area before operating power equipment. Loud noises and vibrations may disturb bees.
- Do not pen or tether animals near a bee hive
- Stay alert when horseback riding or hiking. Keep dogs under control.
BEE-PROOF YOUR HOME

Bee-Proof Your Home
Check weekly for swarms and hives on your property. Bees entering or leaving the same area of your home or yard may indicate the presence of a hive.

Building Maintenance
- Inspect the outside walls and eaves of home and outbuildings
- Keep shed and garage doors closed
- Seal openings larger than 1/8” in walls, around chimneys, plumbing and storage sheds
- Install fine screens (1/16” hardware cloth) over tops of rain spouts, vents, and openings in water meter, cable, and utility boxes
- Inspect outdoor pet areas

Yard Maintenance
- Remove and/or thin overgrown vegetation
- Fill and plug all tree holes, ground holes, and rodent burrows
- Discard empty containers, tires, boxes and trash

BEE-PROOF YOUR HOME

IF YOU ARE STUNG

If Attacked
- Leave the area quickly
- Protect head and face with arms and/or available clothing
- Seek shelter in the nearest building or vehicle
- Do not jump into water
- Remove stingers as quickly as possible
- Call 911

If Stung
- Go quickly to a safe area
- Remove the stinger(s) as soon as possible
- Scrape the stinger out with a fingernail or credit card; avoid squeezing the venom sac
- Wash the sting area with soap and water and apply an ice pack
- Seek immediate medical attention for multiple stings and allergic reactions (difficulty breathing, hives, dizziness or fainting)

Bee Nesting Sites

Overgrown vegetation
Wood Pile
Pet Areas
Tree holes & cavities
Rodent burrows
Shed
Roof overhangs (eaves)
Opening around pipes
Wall cavities (cracks, holes, and uncapped block walls)
Damaged and/or unscreened vents
Debris, tires, boxes, toys, empty containers, and flower pots
Spark arresters
Gaps around chimneys
BBQ

© Fotosearch
**Who to Call**

- Contact the District at (310) 915-7370 if you would like to have a tick specimen identified
- Contact your doctor if you suspect you have Lyme disease or any other tick-borne disease

**Tick Activity**

- Ticks are found in a variety of habitats in areas with grasses, shrubs, logs or leaf litter
- Each life stage of the tick attaches to an animal for several days to take a blood meal before maturing to the next stage

**Nymphal Ticks**

- Seek hosts in moist environments within and beneath leaf litter, vegetation, on logs, or fallen branches under trees in oak woodlands
- People are exposed to nymphs while in direct contact with leaves, fir needles, wood, or when sitting on logs or leaning against tree trunks

**Adult Ticks**

- Seek hosts by climbing on low vegetation, such as grass and shrubs along trails
- People are exposed to adult ticks during recreational activities or working in various types of grassland or brushland habitats

**Ticks in Los Angeles County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Black-legged Tick (Ixodes pacificus)</th>
<th><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Lyme disease vector</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adults may be active November through May</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nymphs may be active March through July</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pacific Coast Tick (Dermacentor occidentalis)</th>
<th><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Adults may be active November through July</td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nymphs may be active in spring and summer</td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Dog Tick (Dermacentor variabilis)</th>
<th><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Adults may be active November through July</td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nymphs may be active from late winter to summer</td>
<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brown Dog Tick (Rhipicephalus sanguineus)</th>
<th><img src="image11.png" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Household / kennel pest</td>
<td><img src="image12.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Can live its entire life cycle indoors</td>
<td><img src="image13.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proper Tick Removal**

- Use tweezers to grasp the tick’s mouthparts as close to the skin as possible
- Pull the tick straight out with a firm, steady motion. Do not squish, jerk, twist, or burn the tick.
- Wash hands with soap and water
- Disinfect the bite site and apply an antiseptic
- Save the tick for identification
- A localized reaction or infection can occur where the tick was attached
- Seek medical attention if:
  - Redness or pain develops at the bite site
  - A rash or flu-like symptoms develop within 30 days
PROTECTION FROM TICKS

While Outdoors
- Avoid areas where ticks are known to occur
- Walk in the center of trails, avoiding bushes and grasses alongside trails
- Avoid sitting or lying on the ground, sitting on logs or against tree trunks
- Avoid direct contact with shed leaves, fir needles or wood while gardening, gathering firewood, or wood-cutting

Protective Clothing & Repellent

Wear:
- Light colored clothing
- Long pants & long-sleeved shirts
- Tuck shirt into pants; pants into boots or socks

Repellent:
- Use a tick repellent with permethrin on gear and clothing (as directed on the product label). Permethrin should not be applied directly to the skin. Repellents containing DEET can be applied to exposed skin.
- Consult with your veterinarian to control ticks on pets

Tick Checks
- Do frequent tick checks while outdoors
- Conduct full body tick checks after every hike
- Ticks may remain attached to your body for several days
- Pay close attention to hair line, armpit, back of knees and groin
- Check your pets after they have been outside

LYME DISEASE

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted by nymphal and adult female western black-legged ticks. Larvae and nymphs may become infected by feeding on wild rodents carrying the Lyme disease bacteria. Lyme disease can be transmitted to humans and other animals when the infected tick feeds in its next life stage.

Early Symptoms of Lyme Disease
Symptoms may disappear but infection may still be present if not treated early
- Flu-like symptoms
- Swollen lymph glands
- Erythema Migrans (EM)
  - Can appear 1-30 days after an infected tick bite, expand and then disappear
  - Varies in appearance from an expanding "bull's-eye" rash to a bruise or blotchy rash
  - May not be present in some people, or it may occur on a part of the body that is difficult to see
- Facial paralysis, heart palpitations, or disturbances of heart rhythm

Late Symptoms of Lyme Disease
Can occur weeks, months, or years after infection if not treated early
- Severe headaches; cognitive disorders
- Numbness or tingling in extremities
- Painful arthritis and swelling of joints
- Cardiac abnormalities
RIFA Nests

- Irregularly shaped with small piles of loose soil peppered with very small holes. The mounds are wider than tall and can be more than 18 inches across.
- Common nesting sites: lawns, gardens, school yards, parks, roadsides, and golf courses, rotten logs, walls, sidewalks, electric and water utility boxes.
- Attacks occur when RIFA mounds are disturbed. Because RIFA can sting multiple times, a victim may receive many more stings than there are ants.

RIFA SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

If you Suspect a Red Imported Fire Ant Infestation

- Avoid the area
- Keep children and pets away from the area
- Do not disturb the ants or mound
- Do not attempt to control the ants yourself

Who to Call

- Multiple Stinging Emergencies
  Call 911
- Red Imported Fire Ant infestations
  Contact the District at (310) 915-7370

Mistaken Identities (Ants)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ant Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)</td>
<td>Known for its aggressive behavior and painful stings</td>
<td>⅛&quot; - ¼&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentine Ant</td>
<td>Common household pest</td>
<td>⅛&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Harvester Ant</td>
<td>Painful sting</td>
<td>⅛&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Fire Ant</td>
<td>Looks similar to RIFA</td>
<td>⅛&quot; to ¼&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outdoor Safety

- Dress properly while outdoors; wear gloves and closed-toe shoes with socks
- Dress children properly for outdoor play
- Survey your property for suspected ant mounds
- Inspect outdoor pet areas for RIFA activity. Pet food and water bowls may attract foraging ants.

If Stung

- Cleanse the area with soap and water
- Elevate the sting area
- Apply an ice pack and avoid scratching blisters
- Apply a topical ointment containing steroids and/or take an oral antihistamine to relieve the itching
- Seek medical attention if:
  - You experience an allergic reaction
  - Pain or swelling becomes intense
  - Sting area becomes infected

Ant images © Alex Wild

© USDA
**WHO TO CALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOSQUITOES</th>
<th>If you are bothered by mosquitoes, need assistance with breeding sources, or need mosquitofish Contact the Los Angeles County West Vector &amp; Vector-Borne Disease Control District at (310) 915-7370</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you suspect you have West Nile virus or any other mosquito-borne disease Contact your doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONEY BEES</td>
<td>Multiple stinging emergencies Call 911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swarms / hives (outside of a building) Contact the Los Angeles County West Vector &amp; Vector-Borne Disease Control District at (310) 915-7370</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swarms / hives (inside of a building) Contact a licensed structural pest control operator by consulting your local yellow pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>TICKS</td>
<td>Tick identification and information Contact the Los Angeles County West Vector &amp; Vector-Borne Disease Control District at (310) 915-7370</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If you suspect you have Lyme disease or any other tick-borne disease Contact your doctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS</td>
<td>Multiple stinging emergencies Call 911</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suspected RIFA infestations Contact the Los Angeles County West Vector &amp; Vector-Borne Disease Control District at (310) 915-7370</td>
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