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West Nile cases rise prompting more fogging

By: Camille Acevedo

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West Nile virus cases are rising in Butte County, but crews are working hard to stop the threat.

OROVILLE, Calif - West Nile virus cases are rising in Butte County, but crews are working hard to stop the threat.

Assistant Manager for Butte County Mosquito and Vector control district Aaron Lumsden tells Action News Now that 17 people have contracted the West Nile Virus.

“West Nile is extremely active in the county right now, it is beginning to wind down but we are still finding positive indicators throughout,” Lumsden said.

According to Mosquito and Vector Control District, one way to control mosquito larvae and adults is through fogging. Crews go hit designated routes early mornings and late evenings, when the mosquitoes are most active. Lumsden tells Action News Now that there is a risk when using any pesticides, but that the county tries to minimize how much they use. The district follows specific protocols to make it safe for people and the environment when they are spraying and so the fog is still effective in controlling the mosquitoes.



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The vector control district does post the routes that they plan to spray along with the times online. On the list is Downtown Oroville and in Thermalito areas. Some people are for fogging.

“The amount they spray is minimal, I mean you can see it, it is a fog but I would rather have a little chemical than the West Nile Virus personally. So I am for the spraying, they do it at night and like I said I have never had any problems or reactions.”

Others are against it.

“It has not been proven to me the science of it and the specifications of what they are going to be spraying and how its going to affect my health.”

The chemicals they use are approved by the federal and state EPA. And those chemicals come in ultra-low volumes and spread through either ground sprayers or aircraft. Aircraft is usually used in agricultural areas.

Other areas planned to be sprayed are parts of Richvale, Nelson, Hamilton city, Nord, Meridian Road and M&T Levee tonight.

The district can also go to residential homes and spray around the property if people ask them to.

Camille Acevedo