



City of Sedona Community Development Department Engineering Services

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West Nile Virus (WNV)

When springtime and warmer weather arrive, concern about mosquito breeding season and West Nile Virus (WNV) arise. The virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, and as such, the most effective means to reduce the potential for transmission is to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, wearing appropriate clothing, and using appropriate repellent.

What does the city do?

The City of Sedona implements a treatment plan during the WNV season, typically late April through November, to reduce the potential for mosquitos to breed. The City has developed a list of areas where stagnant water is likely to form, based on past observations, and these areas are checked after rain events. The City also monitors the wetlands at the Waste Water Treatment Facility.

The City uses larvacide to treat for mosquitos, and has had good results. The larvacide, which contains no toxic or hazardous substances, is applied to the surface of the water at about one month intervals.

What can you do?

You can also take steps to reduce the mosquito breeding locations as well as the likelihood of being bitten. Follow the “Four D’s”, which are;

Drain - empty and eliminate any standing water on your property,

DEET - wear protective insect repellent,

Dress - wear long sleeves and pants to cover as much skin as you can, and

Dusk to Dawn - avoid activities outside between dusk and dawn when mosquito activity is the greatest.

Additionally, the public is urged to report any areas of standing water to Pete Garcia, City of Sedona Maintenance Department, at (928) 203-5063.

More information on West Nile Virus is available at the following websites:

Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) website (<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>)

Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) website (<http://www.azdhs.gov>)

For any other questions, please contact Michael Righi, Assistant Engineer, City of Sedona Community Development Department Engineering Services, at (928) 203-5088 or MRighi@SedonaAZ.gov.

