MOSQUITOES
Western encephalitis mosquito – Culex tarsalis

Mosquitoes are blood-sucking insects found throughout the world, except in places that are permanently frozen. They are hosts to a variety of pathogens and parasites, including viruses and bacteria. Mosquitoes are the sole vectors of the pathogens causing malaria, yellow fever, and dengue, and they are of prime importance in transmitting filariasis, encephalitis and West Nile Virus.

The District maintains a comprehensive, year-round, mosquito-borne disease surveillance, and control program to suppress mosquito populations.

The program consists of:

- Inspections and reduction of mosquito breeding sources in urban, suburban and rural areas.
- Introduction of mosquito fish in mosquito breeding habitats, where applicable.
- Ground and aerial treatments with environmentally safe products.
- An outreach program that includes presentations to schools, civic groups, and governmental agencies.

FLIES
Housefly – Musca domestica

The flies closely associated with humans are often referred to as filth flies, because of their association with garbage, manure, and decaying organic matter. They do not bite, but do serve as carriers of organisms causing disease such as typhoid, diarrhea, and many others.

To suppress flies, the District uses fly traps and a “trap-out” method to lower fly populations, as well as advising farmers and homeowners on removal of fly breeding habitats. Good sanitation is the basis for all-fly control.
General Information

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is a special district whose mission is to reduce the risk of disease transmission by mosquitoes and other vectors for residents and visitors of the Coachella Valley. The District boundaries encompass 2400 square miles.

An eleven member Board of Trustees, nine from incorporated cities, and two from the County at large govern the District. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

The Board of Supervisors established the District in 1928 primarily for controlling eye gnats. In 1951, the Board of Trustees added a program for mosquito control and in 1995 expanded to a full vector control agency.

In 2005 the District added the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) Program. Valley residents suffering from RIFA infestations can now call the District for property inspections and treatment.

The District services are available to all residents of the Coachella Valley. The District moved from Thermal, where it was located for 73 years, to the new operations headquarters in Indio in April 2001.

In collaboration with the University of California and the California Department of Health Services, the District conducts mosquito-borne and wild rodent disease surveillance and research projects on insect biology, insecticide effectiveness and new control methods and products.

Field Operations

This department consists of state certified vector control technicians and trained seasonal staff that are responsible for surveillance and control of mosquitoes and eye gnats within a geographical area.

They also respond to service requests received by the District from Valley residents who have problems with mosquitoes, eye gnats, flies, and rodents.

Laboratory

The laboratory department maintains extensive surveillance programs to monitor mosquito, eye gnat, and wild rodent populations and the disease they spread throughout the Valley.

The field department integrates mosquito, eye gnat, vertebrate, and invertebrate programs. These programs are periodically evaluated and redirected to meet with the latest advances in control and environmental safety.

Insect Identification

CVMVCD 43-420 Trader Place, Indio

Mosquito Surveillance

Mosquito Control

Technician in protective clothing, processing captured wild rodent for Hantavirus disease surveillance.

Wild Rodent Disease Surveillance

Collar Trap

Disposable Trap