



Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1948

3rd Quarter, 2026

Newsletter

MOSQUITO SEASON IN REVIEW

In 2026, the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) continued to build on its commitment to protecting public health and serving the communities of Butte County and Hamilton City of Glenn County. District staff and the Board of Trustees dedicated long days, nights, weekends, and holidays to protecting public health and responding to the needs of communities throughout the District's service area. As of September 22nd, the District has responded to 2,149 service requests while continuing to address West Nile virus detections and the ongoing challenge posed by the invasive mosquito species *Aedes aegypti*.

Building on the significant investments and accomplishments of the previous year, the District continued to strengthen its aerial operations and expand its ability to respond to mosquito threats across the county. The improvements to aerial operations in 2025 provided greater capacity and flexibility, allowing the District to build on its record-breaking aerial treatment efforts and respond more efficiently to mosquito populations.

The dedication, expertise, and teamwork demonstrated by District employees and Trustees went above and beyond expectations. From field inspections and surveillance to laboratory testing, public outreach, and mosquito control operations, every department played an important role in protecting public health and serving the community.



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road
Oroville, CA. 95965

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District is to protect public health by preventing and reducing mosquito-borne disease, minimizing nuisance mosquito populations, and combating the spread of diseases associated with ticks, fleas, and other vectors. The District accomplishes this through science-based, environmentally responsible control strategies, proactive surveillance, and community education and engagement.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Common Household Sources of Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water

Keep an eye on these mosquito breeding sources and drain, tip-over, cover, or throw out items that may hold water for extended periods of time.

Dump and Drain After The Rain!



WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY

As of September 21st, 39 mosquito pools and 31 sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), within the District's service area. There have been 13 human cases reported. WNV can lead to serious illness, particularly in older adults and those with weakened immune systems. Preventing mosquito breeding and limiting exposure to mosquito bites are key steps in keeping our community safe. Ongoing mosquito control efforts play a vital role in protecting public health and supporting the well-being of everyone in our community.



AERIAL OPERATIONS

As of September 22nd, Aerial Operations has treated 94,755 acres of rice, 8,897 acres of wetlands, and conducted 8 Ultra-Low-Volume (ULV) adulticide treatments covering 61,440 acres. In total, 165,092 acres have been treated by air this year. Building on the growth and expanded capabilities of recent years, the District's aerial fleet continues to play a vital role in mosquito control throughout Butte County. The addition of "Le Frog" and "Jaws II" in 2025 expanded the District's capacity to treat mosquito breeding sources quickly and efficiently, complementing the District's longtime aircraft, "Horse" and "Bat."



AERIAL PROGRAM



Wetland surveillance is a key part of the District's efforts to keep our community protected from mosquitoes. Each year, the District monitors over 50,000 acres of wetlands across state, federal, and private lands. Because these areas are so vast, aerial surveillance is the most effective way to track changes. During mosquito season, the District's pilot captures aerial photographs to monitor when and where wetlands are flooding. These images help guide Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists (MVCS), who visit sites on the ground to check water sources for mosquito larvae.

If larvae are found, specialists use mapping software to chart the locations and provide the air operations team with the information they need. By combining larval counts with environmental factors, the team determines the right level of treatment needed. The pilot then receives detailed maps and GPS coordinates to ensure treatments are applied with precision. Afterward, the information is carefully recorded for accountability and reporting, helping us keep wetlands healthy and our communities safe.



FYI If an MVCS finds 10 mosquito larvae per dip in a small 10-acre field, there are approximately 3.92 million mosquito larvae! With these numbers in mind, it quickly becomes apparent as to why the District must do aerial wetland surveillance and control.

AEDES AEGYPTI

Aedes aegypti, commonly referred to as the yellow fever mosquito, ranges globally in tropic and subtropic areas. These mosquitoes are aggressive biters that feed mostly during the day, indoors and outdoors. Eggs are laid on dry surfaces near water and are resistant to drying out and are viable for 8 months. These mosquitoes survive the winter in the egg stage and hatch when covered with water in warm weather. This mosquito has the ability to transmit Zika, dengue fever, chikungunya, and yellow fever viruses. As of September 22nd, *Aedes aegypti* has been identified in 42 sites, 5,219 females total, in the areas of Oroville, Palermo, Chico, Durham, Richvale, Paradise, Gridley, Biggs and Hamilton City. It's important for residents to eliminate all types of standing water around their property to prevent the spread of *Aedes aegypti*. Detection maps available at www.ButteMosquito.com

Aedes aegypti Detection Maps

