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Arapahoe County prepares to Fight the Bite this mosquito season

Displays stocked with repellent and brochures set up in several County buildings

Littleton, Colo. – Arapahoe County set up the Fight the Bite displays in five County buildings which are stocked with free insect repellent wipes, lotion and brochures to educate the public on ways to avoid the West Nile Virus this season.

West Nile Virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Nearly 300 human cases of the disease were reported in Colorado in 2004, none of which were in Arapahoe County.

The only treatment available is prevention. Some precautions individuals may take are to practice the four Ds: DEET – use DEET – enhanced insect repellent; Dress – in long sleeves and pants; Dusk to Dawn – avoid the outdoors from dusk until dawn; Drain – drain standing water outside your home.

The repellents and brochures are available in the following buildings:

- Administration Building, 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton
- Arapahoe Plaza, 1690 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton
- CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Dr., Aurora
- Public Works and Development, 10730 East Briarwood Ave., Suite 100, Centennial
- Sheriff's Administration, 13101 E. Broncos Parkway, Centennial

Arapahoe County's Mosquito Control program aims to reduce the number of mosquitoes that can potentially carry West Nile Virus. The main day-to-day operations of our program consists of weekly monitoring of more than 200 mosquito breeding sites from April through October. When needed, a bacterial larvacide called Vectobac-G is applied where the larvae are found and detailed records are kept for each site on a weekly basis.

In late April, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that repellants with the active ingredients picaridin and oil lemon eucalyptus can be used in place of DEET products. These plant-based repellents offer protection up to an hour. DEET products, depending on the concentration, can easily last up to eight hours. Both have proven to offer protection against mosquito bites.

For more information about West Nile Virus, visit the County's web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us or www.fightthebitecolorado.com.
