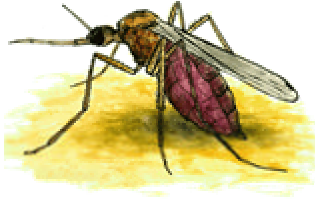


## West Nile Virus Concerns



The City is receiving numerous calls in regard to a growing concern about standing pools of water in the gutter throughout the City that provides a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes, and for possible exposure to the virus.

Standing water is generally due to the uplifting of the gutter flow line by tree roots. In many cases roots from mature trees have also raised sidewalks. Repairing uplifted gutters and sidewalks in a timely manner is not economically feasible due to staffing constraints, and the number of requests.

Currently staff has a backlog of 837 concrete repair requests (773 sidewalk and 64 curb & gutter). Repairs are scheduled based on the date a call is received. Staff is currently repairing locations that were received in August 2000. Essentially, there is a 4-year waiting period until repairs can be completed. Curb and gutter requests will be placed on the repair list. Call 310/412-5340 to request repairs. The Sewer Section staff will respond to calls to remove standing water. For standing water removal call 310/412-5333.

Additionally, all residential streets in the City are swept on a weekly basis. While the primary function of this task is to remove debris from the gutter, pools of standing water are also removed; thus reducing the opportunity for mosquitoes to breed.

To further reduce the opportunity for mosquito breeding, we request your assistance as follows:

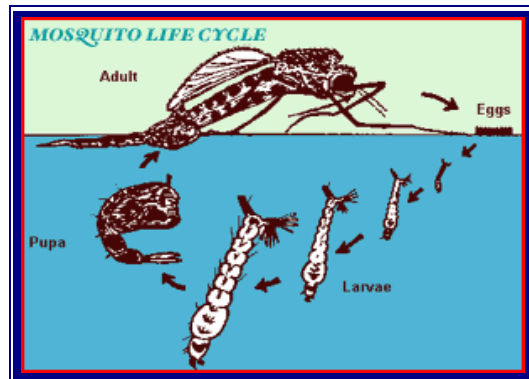
- Hand sweep gutters as needed to eliminate standing pools of water
- Water your lawn less frequently
- Adjust sprinkler heads to prevent water from flowing into the gutter
- Tip out containers such as toys, cans or empty water from flower pot dishes and plant saucers

- Empty children's wading pools when not in use
- Change water in birdbaths and animal troughs at least once a week
- Get rid of used tires
- Clean garden ponds
- Recycle old bottles, buckets and cans
- Clean leaf-clogged gutters
- Dump water off of tarps and plastic sheeting
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets

Mosquitoes grow through four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. All larvae and pupae require water to develop, so the eggs are laid in or near water or in moist depressions that can fill with water.

Mosquitoes like still or standing water to lay their eggs. These eggs hatch into larvae and develop into adults in as few as seven days. Some species need only a few ounces of water to lay eggs.

Larvae ("wigglers") are ¼ to ½ inch long, or smaller. They move by vigorously wiggling or flexing their bodies. They are usually dark in color and look like tiny aquatic worms.



Though there are variations dependent on weather and temperature, mosquito larvae are most likely to be present from March through October.

For more information about the West Nile Virus, visit the City of Inglewood Website at [www.cityofinglewood.org](http://www.cityofinglewood.org) or call 310.412.5333.