What's All the Buzz About?

With temperatures creeping into triple digits, the arrival of summer, and mosquito season, are right around the corner. Due to its arid environment, Las Vegas is fortunate to not have as many insects as most places, but we are not immune. Known for their annoying, high-pitched buzz, mosquitoes pose concerns beyond the lingering itch of a bite.

Mosquitoes can carry diseases transferred to and from their hosts, primarily the West Nile Virus.

Acquired from infected birds, the virus is then transmitted by mosquitoes to other animals or humans. While some may experience mild flu-like symptoms or none at all, there is a very small percentage of the population that develops more serious complications and even death.

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), a member agency of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, routinely surveys mosquito populations throughout the valley for West Nile Virus. Because mosquitoes need stagnant or slow moving water for their reproductive cycle, the Las Vegas Wash may have a higher concentration of mosquitoes than other valley areas.

In recent summers, samples from the Las Vegas Wash have tested positive, and with the mild winter we’ve had this year, the virus could show up early. To protect yourself while enjoying the Clark County Wetlands Park, the SNHD suggest the following precautions:

- Wear pants and long-sleeved shirts
- Avoid dawn and dusk activity when mosquitos are most active
- Apply an insect repellant containing DEET

For more information, visit SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.

LVWCC Year-End Report is Complete

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) has recently completed its 2011 Year-End Report, highlighting many of the past year’s accomplishments. The report summarizes the goals of the LVWCC and the Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan and outlines the major components of the program including stabilization, water quality, wildlife, vegetation enhancement, and education and outreach. Produced annually, the Year-End Report serves as a reference to committee members and other interested parties.

A limited number of hard copies were produced and distributed among agency members that participated in the April LVWCC annual tour. If your organization has not received a copy, please contact Sandra Harris at (702) 822-3390. In addition, the complete document is available at lvwash.org.