

West Nile Virus detected in Twin Falls County

TWIN FALLS — Mosquitoes in Twin Falls County have tested positive for West Nile Virus, South Central Public Health District announced Friday.

No human or animal cases have been reported. Last week, West Nile Virus-positive mosquito pools were also found in Gooding County.

“It is safe to say that West Nile Virus could be found anywhere in the Magic Valley at this point, and people should try to avoid mosquitoes and eliminate their habitat,” Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District manager Kirk Tubbs said in a statement.

South Central Public Health District offers these tips:

- Drain standing water on your property.
- Avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk.
- Wear long sleeves and pants while outdoors.
- Use a mosquito repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET.
- Make sure your door and window screens are in good condition to prevent mosquitos from entering your home.

Twin Falls County is the only Magic Valley county with a pest abatement district, so it set traps near Hagerman last week to check for West Nile Virus.

Trapping and testing is funded partly by an Idaho Department of Health and Welfare grant.

The pest abatement district has logged more than 150 trap nights this summer to test for West Nile Virus.

This week, two traps were set up near Twin Falls — one near the river and the other near Rock Creek — and came back positive for the virus.

For more information, visit phd5.idaho.gov.

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