Press Release
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Fight the Bite

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week Begins Sunday, June 18

Sacramento, CA – June 7, 2023 – National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, taking place from June 18 - June 24, 2023, is an opportunity each year to shed light on the critical importance of managing mosquitoes in your local community and reducing the prevalence of locally transmitted vector-borne diseases. Mosquitoes, known as the carriers of deadly disease-causing agents, pose a significant threat to public health throughout the United States and worldwide. During this week, AMCA seeks to educate and empower individuals, communities, and organizations to take proactive measures in mosquito control and safeguarding public health.

Mosquitoes are not just pesky insects that interrupt our summer activities; they are formidable vectors for dangerous diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus, chikungunya, and West Nile virus. These illnesses can cause severe morbidity and mortality, particularly in regions with limited resources and inadequate healthcare systems. The impact of vector-borne diseases extends beyond individual health, affecting economic productivity and at times of an outbreak straining local healthcare systems.

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week serves as a timely reminder that prevention and control measures are essential to mitigating the devastating impact of these vector-borne diseases. By raising awareness in early June, we hope that communities will take collective action and empower individuals and communities to actively participate in mosquito control efforts. It is also important to remember that mosquito-borne diseases do not only affect humans – they also kill countless birds, reptiles, dogs, horses, and endangered species each year. Awareness of these diseases – including canine heartworm, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Western Equine Encephalitis – is another important component of mosquito control the public should embrace.

Reducing the prevalence of vector-borne diseases requires a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders, including government agencies, public health organizations, community leaders, and individuals. Integrated mosquito management strategies must be implemented, focusing on surveillance, source reduction, larvicide, and adulticide application, along with personal protection measures.

Surveillance plays a crucial role in monitoring mosquito populations and identifying potential disease transmission hotspots. By collecting and analyzing data on mosquito activity, local mosquito management professionals can implement targeted interventions to prevent outbreaks and minimize the risk to public health.

Source reduction involves eliminating or modifying mosquito breeding habitats, such as stagnant water sources. This approach can significantly reduce mosquito populations and disrupt their life cycle, thereby
curbing disease transmission. Simple actions such as regularly emptying containers that collect water, properly maintaining swimming pools, and ensuring proper drainage of low areas can have a substantial impact on reducing mosquito breeding sites.

Larviciding and adulticiding are also essential components of mosquito control programs, particularly in areas where source reduction is challenging. By applying products to mosquito breeding sites, we can effectively prevent the development of mosquito larvae into adult mosquitoes, thus reducing disease transmission. However, it is often impossible to treat all larval production sites, adulticide activities are often employed when surveillance dictates that biting female mosquitoes have reached intolerable levels.

Personal protection is vital in minimizing the risk of mosquito bites and subsequent infections. The use of mosquito repellents, wearing protective clothing, and repairing window and door screens can provide a layer of defense against mosquito bites.

During National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, individuals and communities are encouraged to take action. By engaging in activities such as community clean-ups, educational campaigns, and distribution of educational materials, we can collectively raise awareness about mosquito-borne diseases and the importance of prevention. Moreover, collaboration among government agencies, mosquito control districts, and the private sector is crucial in implementing sustainable mosquito control programs. By pooling resources and expertise, we can enhance the effectiveness of mosquito control initiatives and maximize their impact in reducing vector-borne diseases.

Join us during National Mosquito Control Awareness Week and make a difference in the fight against mosquito-borne diseases. Together, we can create a safer and healthier future for all.

About the American Mosquito Control Association

The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) is an international not-for-profit public service association. With over 1,200 members worldwide, AMCA services are provided mainly to public agencies and their principal staff members engaged in mosquito control, mosquito research and related activities. The membership extends to 53 countries and includes individuals and public agencies engaged in mosquito control, mosquito research and related activities.

For more information on National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, please visit AMCA online at www.mosquito.org. Follow AMCA on Facebook, Twitter, and Linkedin @ AMCAmosquito.

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