

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Due to the recent flooding, the mosquitoes may become more prevalent. Now is the time to take precautions to prevent La Crosse Encephalitis. It occurs most commonly during the mid to late summer months and eliminating breeding sites is the most effective method of control.

The mosquito responsible for La Crosse Encephalitis is as close as your backyard. It breeds, hatches and lives in low tree holes and **any container that holds water over a prolonged period of time**. This includes tires, cans, buckets, plastic wading pools and roof gutters.

The virus causing encephalitis often produces a fever, headache, drowsiness, vomiting and in some cases, convulsions. The disease affects persons of all ages, but usually children. If your child exhibits these signs and symptoms, seek medical attention immediately!

WHAT YOU CAN DO....

- Rid your yard of low tree holes (which can be filled and capped).
- Remove old tires, cans and buckets and make sure there is no standing water in yard.
- Empty, remove, cover or turn upside down, **any** container that could hold water, including insuring that rain gutters are not plugged and are draining correctly.
- Properly discard unwanted tires and keep wanted tires inside or under cover
- Wear clothing that covers arms and legs, especially in late afternoon-the mosquito's peak biting period.
- Use insect repellent that contains DEET, but **only** on the clothing of children under 6 years of age.

The most effective way to limit your exposure to the virus is to eliminate mosquito-breeding habitat on your property and encourage neighbors to do the same.

For further information, contact the Vernon County Health Department at 608-637-5251.