



Maricopa County

News Release

Office of Communications
301 West Jefferson Street
10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2143
Phone: 602-506-7063
Fax: 602-506-4125
www.maricopa.gov

For additional information: Al Macias, Communications Director
(602) 506-7063

March 1, 2005

West Nile Virus Plan To Be Presented to Supervisors

Maricopa County Launching Response Plan Earlier in 2005

Maricopa County's West Nile Response Plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday March 2nd at 1:30 p.m.

The County's Environmental Services Department, Public Health Department and other County agencies have prepared a plan to respond to the West Nile Virus and the mosquitoes that carry the disease.

Fifteen people died as a result of contracting the West Nile Virus in 2004.

This year the County's response will focus on informing and educating the public about precautions that can be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to the West Nile Virus.

Key points of the Action Plan include:

- Citizen education about the risks of mosquitoes and West Nile Virus
- Citizen education on prevention in their community and own backyard
- Comprehensive breeding site identification, elimination, and treatment program
- Comprehensive surveillance and testing program
- Fogging only in accordance with a strict protocol
- Community notice in advance of fogging

The Environmental Services Vector Control staff has already begun monitoring for the mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus. The surveillance program started two months ahead of last year's schedule. Staffing has been increased by 300 % from 11 inspectors last year to 44 this year.

The entire presentation will be made to the Board of Supervisors

Location: 301 W. Jefferson 10th floor

Date: March 2nd

Time: 1:30 pm.