

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT UPDATE



Presenter:



Q: Are some people more prone to mosquito bites?

If you think you might be the person most likely to get bitten by a mosquito... you may really be more attractive than others....

If this topic is of an immediate interest to you, again, you are not alone: It is one of the most common questions asked to entomologists and mosquito control professionals.

A Google scholar search for “different-humans-mosquito-attraction” yields: 36,000 results. This is a highly-studied question.

That mosquitoes are likely to bite some people more often than others is scientific fact! You can complain at your leisure, you have science on your side.



Q: Why are some people more likely to be bit?

Bottom line: Smell

Some of the factors are:

- Blood type: a study found that mosquitoes landed on people with Type O blood nearly twice as often as those with Type A)
- Carbon dioxide: If you are a larger person, you probably release more carbon dioxide as you breathe
- Exercise and metabolism: lactic acid, uric acid, ammonia, etc these are components of sweat
- Skin bacteria: USDA scientists point to our feet as a culprit
- Beer: Yep, just one 12-oz beer can increase the feast
- Pregnancy: Since pregnant women tend to have a warmer body temperature... totally unfair!



Q: How do I protect myself?

- The number one way is to avoid mosquitoes
 - Eliminate standing water on your property and encourage neighbors to do the same
- Avoid times when mosquitoes are active, which is generally evening, but different species are active at different times
- Wear an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) registered repellent
 - DEET (20% formula is plenty for about 4 hrs of protection). Some other scientifically proven formulas are: IR 3535, Picaridin, and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Note that all of these are applied to exposed skin, not clothes.



Bryan Reynolds/Science Faction/Corbis





Toss

If possible, scrub and throw away all containers that can hold water for more than 2-3 days.



Take Action

- When going outdoors use CDC-approved insect repellents
- Visit www.northwestmvcd.org or call 951-340-9792 to report potential mosquito breeding sources

Tip

Remove standing water from containers found around your house.

