

HAZARD ALERT

RISK MANAGEMENT SECTION



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Date: 10/11/2010

Alert No: 14

Source:

Internal

External

Author: The Department of Health

Identified Hazard: Ross River virus disease risk in Peel region

Risk Rating:

Low

Moderate

High

Significant

Nature of Incident:

Injury Property Damage

Near-hit

Other:

Description of Incident:

The Department's mosquito and virus surveillance program (undertaken by The University of Western Australia) had detected mosquitoes infected with RRV at monitoring sites in the Peel region in recent weeks.

Incident Time and Date:

Recent

Equipment Involved:

Most of the types of mosquito that carry RRV and BFV in the south-west and Perth breed in natural environments but they can also breed in water-holding containers, rainwater tanks and other receptacles around houses and the urban environment.

Recommendations:

People do not need to alter their plans to visit the south-west as a result of this warning, but it is important to avoid mosquito bites by taking a few simple steps, such as:

- avoiding areas of high mosquito activity, especially around dawn and dusk;
- wearing protective (long, loose-fitting) clothing when outdoors;
- using a personal repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or picaridin. The most effective and long-lasting formulations are lotions or gels. Most natural or organic repellents are not as effective as DEET or picaridin;
- ensuring insect screens are installed and completely mosquito-proof: use mosquito nets and mosquito-proof tents;
- ensuring infants and children are adequately protected against mosquito bites, preferably with suitable clothing, bed nets or other forms of insect screening. Only infant-strength repellents should be used

on small children

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