

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT YELLOWJACKET PROBLEMS?

- When dining outdoors, cover food and beverages to discourage yellowjackets.
- Keep garbage cans closed with tight fitting lids, rinse bottles and cans before placing in covered recycling bins.
- Contact the District for more information about yellowjackets.

## IF YOU ARE STUNG BY A YELLOWJACKET

- If a stinger is visible, remove it immediately.
- Apply cold water or ice in a wet cloth to the affected area.
- If you are allergic to yellowjackets or experience dizziness, difficulty breathing, wide-spread swelling or other symptoms of concern, call 911 immediately.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A YELLOWJACKET PROBLEM OR FIND A NEST

- **AVOID** the area and **DO NOT DISTURB** the nest
- Call **Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District** at (888) 768-2343 to request service.

## FIGHT THE BITE

by practicing the District's 3Ds of protection:

- 1. DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- 2. DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions!
- 3.** Contact the **DISTRICT** for help. We are here to serve you. Call us at (888) 768-2343, or visit us online at [www.placermosquito.org](http://www.placermosquito.org).

*Your tax dollars hard at work*

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## ABOUT YELLOWJACKETS IN PLACER COUNTY



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**Protecting Public Health since 2001**

## SERVICES

The Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District provides year-round services to the residents of Placer County through our comprehensive Integrated Pest Management program, which includes surveillance, control and public education. District technicians promptly respond to requests for service, conduct on-site inspections and provide information about vectors including but not limited to mosquitoes, ticks, yellowjackets and rats. For inquiries or to request service, please call the District toll free at (888) 768-2343, or visit us online at [www.placermosquito.org](http://www.placermosquito.org) to join the spray notification list.



Placer County's rich, diverse landscape from the bright city lights of the valley floor to the rolling foothills to the magnificent snow-capped mountains of the Sierra Nevada, appeals to people from all walks of life. This diverse landscape also provides attractive habitat for a wide variety of mosquitoes and other vectors including ticks and yellowjackets. Be diligent and protect yourself and your family while outdoors and enjoying all that Placer County has to offer.

The Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District strives to reduce mosquito and other vector populations, promote awareness of vectors and vector-borne diseases, and decrease health risks to residents in Placer County.

Since 2001, the District has worked diligently to:

- **educate and inform** the public about current and emerging mosquito and vector-borne diseases
- **inspect, reduce and eliminate** mosquito breeding sources in Placer County
- **employ Integrated Pest Management** strategies and techniques to reduce vector populations and protect public health from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases
- **use public funds efficiently** and responsibly to achieve the District's mission

#### What is a vector?

A vector is an insect or any other animal capable of transmitting a disease or causing harm to people or animals.



## THE FACTS ABOUT YELLOWJACKETS

Yellowjackets are medium-sized black and yellow wasps that are often confused with honeybees, paper wasps and mud-daubers.



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**YELLOWJACKET**



Photo © 2006 Kim Cabrera used with permission

**HONEYBEE**



Photo © 2006 Joyce Gross used with permission

**PAPER WASP**



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**MUD DAUBER**

**Yellowjackets** can be public health pests because they commonly nest and forage close to people. Because of their territorial behavior and affinity for human food, yellowjackets can restrict or prevent outdoor activities in areas such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and backyards. Unlike honey bees, yellowjackets do not leave a stinger behind, allowing them the ability to inflict multiple stings. Stings are painful and can be life-threatening in some cases.

## THE YELLOWJACKET LIFE CYCLE

Yellowjackets are social wasps living in colonies that can contain many hundreds of individuals. Colonies are established annually and abandoned completely as they die off in the fall. Queens overwinter and emerge in early spring to begin new colonies.

Nests can be established in trees, in the ground, or in other existing cavities such as abandoned rodent burrows, the wall spaces behind an exterior wall and the hollows of children's play equipment. Nests are made from paper produced by chewed up wood pulp. Populations increase rapidly from spring through the growing season into September. During this period of the year, yellowjackets will feed on insects, in addition to scavenging sweets and protein rich foods.



## YELLOWJACKET INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The District will respond to reports of high yellowjacket activity. Technicians will inspect the area and decide if control is appropriate. Control measures may include placing traps or bait, treating nests with an approved insecticide, or physically removing the nest. All pesticide applications are made by state-certified technicians using Environmental Protection Agency approved materials.