WHAT IS A VECTOR?

A vector is any animal or insect, such as a rat, mosquito, cockroach and fly, that can transmit disease, cause injury and be a nuisance to humans. The San Bernardino County Mosquito and Vector Control Program will respond to vector-related questions and complaints within San Bernardino County. You can help control vectors in San Bernardino County by recognizing and eliminating their breeding places.

MOSQUITOES

All mosquitoes must have water to complete their life cycle. Mosquitoes can carry diseases such as encephalitis and malaria. You can help by:

- Emptying standing water in containers left outside, especially after it rains.
- Keeping swimming pools clean. Mosquito fish are also provided free of charge from the Vector Control Program to help control mosquitoes in ponds.
- Reporting:
  - Green, stagnant swimming pools.
  - Still water sources, such as ditches and street gutters.
  - Mosquito sightings in the community.

COCKROACHES

Cockroaches are not only a nuisance but could be a health hazard to you and your family. Cockroaches spread germs that can cause illnesses such as diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid fever and food poisoning. You can help control cockroaches by:

- Properly disposing of unnecessary clutter and junk.
- Keeping food tightly covered or in the refrigerator.
- Patching holes in walls and around pipes.
- Checking for cockroaches and egg cases in bags and boxes.
- Repairing leaking and sweating pipes.
- Reporting:
  - All cockroach infestations in buildings.
  - Cockroach sightings in or near street sewers.

RATS

Roof rats live in many places around your yard and may even enter your home. Rats only need a 1/2 inch space to enter buildings. They nest in places such as palm trees, ivy and lumber piles. Rats also carry fleas that may carry bubonic plague or murine typhus. You can help by:

- Trimming all vegetation away from roof, walls, fences and trees.
- Stacking firewood 18" off the ground and 18" away from the wall.
- Keeping ivy, shrubs and palm trees trimmed.
- Removing potential food sources, such as uneaten pet food and ripe or fallen fruit.
- Screening off house vents and air conditioning vents. Use 1/4" galvanized hardware cloth.
- Weatherstripping bottoms of doors.
- Reporting:
  - All rat infestations.
  - All sightings of rats in the community.

FLIES

Some flies can transmit disease by contaminating human food. Flies often lay their eggs in garbage, animal droppings and other smelly places. You can help reduce the number of flies in your community by:

- Picking up pet droppings daily.
- Rinsing out trash cans weekly and keeping the lids on.
- Reporting:
  - All fly-breeding sources from animal operations, horse stables or large amounts of garbage.