

HHS: West Nile Virus Takes First 2015 Victim as Height Of Mosquito Season Underway

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - State officials have not identified the victim, but they are confirming that West Nile Virus is the cause of a person's death in North Carolina, the first confirmed case for 2015.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans from infected mosquitos. State health officials say we are in the height of the mosquito season, which means extra precautions should be taken when working outside.

Most people who are bitten won't experience symptoms. But in some cases -- about 1 percent -- the body cannot overcome the infection.

"This is a tragic reminder that these infections, though relatively rare, can be fatal," said Dr. Carl Williams, State Public Health Veterinarian in a statement. "We see most cases of mosquito-borne illness in the months from August through October but you can still enjoy your time outdoors by following some basic control measures."

Those measures include emptying standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths at least once a week.