

## Firewood Alert

Minnesota's neighborhoods and forests are under attack. The emerald ash borer (EAB) beetle which destroyed tens of millions of ash trees across eastern parts of the United States is here in Minnesota. Minnesota has the highest volume of ash trees in the U.S. with almost a billion forestland and urban trees. The potential economic and environmental impacts of losing these trees are substantial. In May 2009, EAB was confirmed in Minnesota. EAB is a serious invasive tree pest, and Minnesota currently has a quarantine placed on Ramsey, Hennepin, Houston, and Winona Counties to help slow the spread of EAB to other areas.

The transportation of firewood is a leading cause for the accidental introduction of harmful tree insects such as the EAB and diseases to new areas. Insects like EAB can hitch a ride on cut wood from both living and dead trees and are often hiding under the bark. Studies have shown that EAB can emerge from firewood for two years after it has been cut. Therefore, the most effective way to stop the EAB is to not move firewood.

The only hardwood firewood that is safe to move across the state and allowed to move out of quarantined counties is wood certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). All certified wood will have the MDA Certification Shield on the label (shown below). Certified wood has been treated according to the standards required to mitigate plant pest risk. Moving uncertified hardwood firewood out of a quarantine is illegal and is punishable up to a \$7,500 fine per violation per day.

MDA Certified firewood is not the same as DNR Approved firewood. DNR Approved firewood is authorized by the Department of Natural Resources for use on specific state-managed lands. It must be purchased from the DNR park where it is to be used or from a DNR approved vendor with labels marked as DNR approved. Unless the firewood carries the MDA Certification Shield, it has not been certified as pest free.

### Here's how you can help protect our trees and forests

- **Don't transport firewood.** It is illegal to transport hardwood firewood out of quarantined counties unless it is MDA certified.
- **Buy MDA certified firewood.** MDA certified firewood has been treated to state standards and the MDA has verified the firewood is pest free and safe to move throughout the state. Look for the MDA certified seal.
- **Report firewood violations to MDA.** If you have any questions regarding safe to move firewood or suspect a tree has a reportable pest contact the MDA's Arrest the Pest at [Arrest.the.Pest@state.mn.us](mailto:Arrest.the.Pest@state.mn.us) or 888-545-6684



*Learn more information about safe to move firewood and the emerald ash borer  
at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website*

[www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab)

625 Robert St. N., St. Paul, MN 55155-2538 • 651-201-6000 or 1-800-967-2474 [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651/201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.