

Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry

Firewood messages and facts

Messages:

- For all audiences:
 - "Campers, RVers and others are asked to leave their firewood home, today and everyday."
 - "Buy local. Burn local."
 - "Buy it where you burn it."
 - "Don't give bugs a free ride."
 - "Pack marshmallows. Not firewood."
 - "Don't Move Firewood"
 - "Leave firewood at home"
- For campground owners:
 - "Help us to help you. Ask campers to leave firewood at home."
 - "Protect your forests. Ask campers to leave firewood at home."
- For campers:
 - "Protect the places you love. Please leave firewood at home."
 - "If you bring it, burn it."
- For racing enthusiasts:
 - "Save gas. Save space. Buy and burn firewood locally."
- For environmentalists:
 - "Invasive species can devastate our forests and other natural areas. Spread the word. Leave firewood at home."
- For winter outdoor enthusiasts:
 - "It's never cold enough to safely move firewood. Leave your firewood at home today and everyday."

Facts & Quotes:

- The issue of invasive species is one of the U.S. Forest Service's top four threats.
- The financial impact from invasive species infestations in the United States has been estimated at \$138 billion per year in total economic damages and associated control costs.
- Invasive species are those that are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
- Invasive species often have no local predators. If left unchecked, they can throw off the balance of native ecosystems.
- A robust invasive insect population like EAB can decimate a forest in as little as two to five years.
- There are about 2,000 exotic species including about 400 invasive species in the United States today.
- A recent Michigan study indicated that the vast majority of invasive insect infestations at state parks and around recreational lakes are the result of firewood movement.
- When you move potentially infested firewood, any pests that emerge out of it can seriously threaten the trees of your community, said Forest Service Northern Research Station Entomologist Therese Poland. EAB is just one example of insects that could infest firewood that can harm your forest, she added.

- Often there's not much we can do about an infestation once it's established, said Deborah McCullough of Michigan State University. Invasive pests spread naturally anyway, but when people move infested firewood over a distance, the infestations spread much faster than they would naturally. The firewood issue is bigger than any one insect species, she added.
- Insects and diseases can be in, on or underneath the bark of infested logs.
- The movement of infested firewood from homes to campsites and elsewhere is a vector in the spread of invasive species.
- There are many species of insects and diseases that can be spread through the movement of firewood, including:
 - emerald ash borer
 - Asian longhorn beetle
 - hemlock woolly adelgid
 - gypsy moth
 - Sirex noctillio
 - oak wilt
 - beech bark disease
 - Dutch elm disease
 - bark beetles
- The EAB has killed more than 25 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia.
- EAB was first detected in North America in 2002 near Detroit.
- States on the northeast corridor are at high risk to EAB as infestations seem to be moving east.
- EAB is also spreading east across southern Ontario.
- Close to 78% of EAB infestation sites with known origins were the result of firewood movement.
- The most recent EAB infestation in West Virginia was found in a campground.
- Several states currently dealing with EAB infestations have already passed legislation prohibiting the movement of firewood into their boundaries.
- When an EAB outbreak is detected in new areas, states often ban the movement of firewood altogether.
- Insects left to their own mode of transportation can only walk or fly very short distances. However, human transportation can move insect-infested firewood hundreds of miles in a single day.
- A 2006 State of New Hampshire survey indicated about one-in-two campers came to their campgrounds from out of state; about 42 percent of campers hauled their firewood from home.
- A later NH survey conducted in August 2007 showed only 32 percent of campers hauling their own firewood.
- Some New Hampshire survey respondents in 2006 said they hauled their firewood from as far away as Ontario and California.
- *What respondents of a Nature Conservancy-sponsored firewood survey also revealed:*
 - Campers and other firewood users were generally receptive to the message about leaving firewood at home.
 - The more aware they were of the problem, the more likely they'd leave firewood at home.
 - They said two effective ways to communicate the concern to them were posters at placed campgrounds and flyers passed out at campground entrances.
 - Firewood haulers in the Midwest appeared to be more aware of the problem than those in the Northeast.

- Of the people who heard the message, 71 percent have said they stopped moving firewood.
 - About 76 percent of the respondents said they would be willing to buy firewood locally.
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Nationwide, invasive species cost about \$138 billion per year in reduced value and control expenditures.

Source: Unknown Author. October 2005. *A Snapshot of the Northeastern Forests*. NA Publication NA-IN-01-06. USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area Web Site. pp. 10. URL: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/snap_shot/ss.pdf

“In my opinion, the vast majority of the infestations at State Parks and around recreational lakes are the result of firewood movement.”

Source: Mike Phillips, MI Dept. of Ag. EAB Survey Coordinator (email dated 100907)

The emerald ash borer has killed more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana to date since it was introduced to North America.

Source: Emerald Ash Borer Info Web site. 2008. URL: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

The EAB has “caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines (Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs. “

Source: Emerald Ash Borer Info Web site. 2008. URL: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

The EAB was first detected on North America near Detroit in 2003.

Source: Emerald Ash Borer Info Web site. 2008. URL: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002.

Source: Emerald Ash Borer Info Web site. 2008. URL: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

An invasive species is defined as any species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Source: Invasive Species Definition Clarification and Guidance White Paper. Apr. 27, 2006. URL: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/docs/council/isacdef.pdf>

The issue of invasive species is one of the U.S. Forest Service’s top four threats.

Source: U.S. Forest Service Web site. Last updated Oct., 30, 2006. URL: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/four-threats/>

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The most recent EAB infestation in West Virginia was found in a campground.

Source: Interview with Therese Poland, research entomologist.

“Buy local, burn local. When you move potentially infested firewood, any pests that emerge out of it can seriously threaten the trees of your community. It’s just not worth hauling firewood.”

Source: Interview with Therese Poland, NRS research entomologist.

“EAB is just one example of insects that could be infesting firewood that can harm your forest.”

Source: Interview with Therese Poland, NRS research entomologist.

“Often there’s not much we can do about an infestation once it’s established.”

Source: Deborah McCullough, MI State U.

“Invasive pests spread naturally anyway. What people do is make big jumps and insects spread much faster than they would do naturally.”

(Deb McCullough, MI State U.)

“The firewood issue is bigger than anyone insect species.”

Source: Deborah McCullough, MI State U.

States on the northeast corridor are at high risk to EAB as infestations seem to be moving east.

Source: Comparison of EAB infestation maps

The EAB is also spreading east across southern Ontario.

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- Of the people who heard the message, 71 percent have said they stopped moving firewood.
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Source: Nature Conservancy Continental Dialogue-sponsored survey.