



## EMERALD ASH BORER

# FAQs

*firewood & pests*

### 1 What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and what does firewood have to do with it?

EAB is an exotic, invasive, wood-boring insect that infests and kills native North American ash trees, both in forests and landscape plantings.

The most common way EAB is spread is by hitching a ride on firewood.



### 2 Why is moving firewood an issue?

EAB larvae can survive and emerge from untreated firewood for up to two years. Campers who bring untreated firewood risk spreading the emerald ash borer and other forest pests and diseases. Even moving firewood from one campground to another in the same neighborhood can spread destructive tree parasites and diseases.

### 3 Where is EAB now?

As of April 2010, EAB had been found in 14 states, including Missouri, and in two Canadian Provinces.

### 4 Where is EAB in Missouri?

The only known EAB infestation in the state was found in July 2008 in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Greenville Recreational Area on Lake Wappapello in Wayne County, Missouri.



Wayne County, Missouri

### 5 How did EAB arrive in Missouri?

Because the discovery of this highly destructive pest was at a campground, there is a strong indication it probably arrived in firewood.

**When you bring firewood camping, you risk carrying a tree killing insect or disease.**

### 6 My firewood looks fine. There are no holes, bugs or any other weird looking stuff on it. Is it okay to transport?

Just because it looks okay, doesn't mean it is. Even experts can't always see the tiny D-shaped exit holes of an adult EAB. Never assume wood that "looks safe" is okay to move. Instead, just leave it alone and burn firewood where you get it.

### 7 I have firewood that has been sitting for at least two years in my backyard. Isn't it safe to take with me?

It's still not a good idea. There's no guarantee aged or seasoned wood is free of pests or other pathogens. Just because it is dry doesn't mean that bugs can't crawl, or fungus grow, on it!

### 8 I accidentally moved firewood, what should I do with it?

If you moved untreated firewood, burn it immediately. This will kill forest pests or diseases and help prevent the spread to healthy trees.

### 9 I have left over wood from camping, what should I do with it now?

Leave it for the next camper to use.

### 10 If I burn all of my wood completely, is it okay to bring it from far away?

Even though this sounds like a good idea, you still should never move untreated firewood. Remember, bugs hitchhike on logs. If a little chip of bark falls unnoticed onto the forest floor, that chip could be the vehicle transporting EAB. It's best just to leave firewood at home and enjoy there.

### 11 Is firewood prohibited from moving out of Wayne County, Missouri?

Yes, among other items. Regulated articles for both the federal and state quarantines are: the emerald ash borer in any living state, nursery stock, green lumber, firewood of any non-coniferous (hardwood) species and other material living, dead, cut or fallen – including logs, stump roots, branches and composted and uncomposted chips – of the genus *Fraxinus*.



### 12 Are there any firewood regulations in the state of Missouri?

No. At this time there are no regulations in place restricting the movement of firewood within Missouri. However, there are restrictions on movement of firewood INTO Missouri from Illinois. A federal quarantine prohibits moving hardwood firewood out of Illinois. It is best just to get your firewood at your destination.

### 13 Are there any areas in Missouri under quarantine?

Yes. Wayne County is under a federal and state quarantine.

### 14 What does the quarantine mean?

A federal quarantine is put into place to prevent the accidental spread of the beetle. This means the interstate (between states) movement of EAB host wood and wood products – nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, chips of ash species and firewood of all hardwood species – from Wayne County is regulated. Likewise, the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) has enacted a state interior quarantine, which prohibits the intrastate (within state) movement of EAB regulated articles from Wayne County.

### 15 Can I purchase firewood in Missouri that is certified as insect free?

No. Missouri does not have any type of certification when it comes to treated firewood. It is best to speak with the person selling the wood. Ask them where they got the wood. If it isn't nearby, or if they don't know where the wood is from, you should consider another firewood dealer.

### 16 Can I cut wood from my backyard if there are no quarantines or pest alerts in my area?

That's okay as long as you plan to burn the wood at home. However, it's not a good idea if you plan on taking the wood with you when you camp. Pest infestations can take years to be recognized. By the time the tree looks sick, or the quarantine is announced, you could have spread the infestation to all your favorite campsites! Don't take a chance. Get your firewood at your destination.

### 17 I don't want to have to pay someone else for my firewood. Why can't I just get it myself?

You can. Ideally, your firewood should be from only a few miles away or at least in the same county. More broadly, if you're able to get wood from up to 50 miles away, that is still considered low risk.

**Everyone can take steps to slow the spread of emerald ash borer (EAB) and other pests and diseases to Missouri State Parks, woods, and other forested and urban areas.**

**Don't spread pests.  
Burn firewood where you get it!**

