

Hunters Not to Move Firewood



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters that they can make an important contribution to stop the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB) by leaving firewood at home and purchasing it after reaching their destination.

Emerald ash borer is a wood-boring exotic beetle. The larvae of the beetle feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients.

Since its discovery, EAB has killed an estimated 15 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. The existence of this beetle has also cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries millions of dollars.

Most of the tree loss has been in southeastern Michigan. Recently, however, outlying infestations have been detected throughout northern Lower Michigan and in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Most of these outlying infestations are a result of moving firewood from southeastern Michigan that contained the little green bug.



Moving firewood is the single most important factor in the long distance spread of EAB and puts Michigan's 700 million ash trees at risk, said Bob Heyd, DNR Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Divisions program manager. Hunters need to remember that Michigan has a quarantine prohibiting the movement of all hardwood firewood out of quarantined areas.

Violation of the quarantine carries a minimum fine of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment. In addition, it is illegal to move hardwood firewood out of the states Lower Peninsula.

For more information, visit www.emeraldashborer.info or call the EAB hotline at 866-325-0023. Contacts: Bob Heyd at 906-228-6561 or Mary Dettloff 517-335-3014