

# FIREWOOD ALERT!

## INVASIVE TREE-KILLING PESTS CAN HITCHHIKE IN YOUR FIREWOOD



### Why is moving firewood such a bad idea?

Firewood can carry invasive insects and diseases that can kill native trees. New infestations of these insects and diseases can destroy our forests, decrease property values, and cost a great deal to monitor, manage, and control.

### Why are these non-native insects and diseases causing a problem?

Non-native insects and diseases have few (if any) predators, and the native trees have few natural defenses against them. Invasive insects and diseases reproduce quickly and can kill our native trees. The emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle are two such pests that we are concerned about in Tennessee.

### My firewood has no bugs, holes, burrows, sawdust, or other weird looking stuff on it. Is it OK to transport it?

No. Tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungus spores, can elude even experts. These tiny threats are enough to disrupt an entire ecosystem. **Never assume wood that “looks safe” is safe to move.**

### Where can I get firewood?

Contact your campground ahead of your visit to find out if firewood is available for purchase or visit [firewoodscout.org](http://firewoodscout.org) to search for certified heat-treated firewood by location. Make sure the bundle is labeled with a USDA seal or other certification that it was heat treated to state and federal standards. Burn any unpackaged firewood at the campsite; don't take any with you to your next destination.

### Are there regulations about moving firewood into or within Tennessee?

In many counties in Tennessee it is illegal to move firewood due to federal quarantines. See [protecttnforests.org](http://protecttnforests.org) for more information. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park recently passed a rule such that only certified heat-treated firewood can be brought into campgrounds. TN State Parks has recently created a policy allowing only certified heat-treated firewood within the park. State agencies are currently studying and considering similar strategies to reduce the risk of infected firewood entering their property.

### What can I do to reduce the chances of moving invasive species in firewood?

- Leave firewood at home; do not transport it to campgrounds or parks.
- Ask your campground how you can get certified heat-treated firewood.
- Be aware of firewood regulations.
- Tell your friends not to move firewood.

### Where can I find more information?

For more information about tree pests and Tennessee specific firewood regulations, go to [protecttnforests.org](http://protecttnforests.org).

For more information about the national campaign, go to [dontmovefirewood.org](http://dontmovefirewood.org).

