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# FOCI Newsletter

Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative

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## **USDA APHIS ending federal domestic emerald ash borer quarantine regulations**

Last week, USDA APHIS published the final rule that will remove federal domestic EAB quarantine regulations. This rule will take effect January 14 2021, and generates two key changes that pertain to the movement of potentially EAB infested firewood. The first change is that no directly EAB-connected federal regulation will apply to firewood- however, keep in mind the other federal, state, tribal, and private regulations and rules that apply to firewood will remain. The second change is that the federal structure that allows for the certification of heat-treated firewood in EAB infested areas (compliance agreements) will no longer be applicable, and therefore certification programs will need to shift to rely on state-based compliance agreements or other types of verification.

To aid in the potential development of state-based firewood regulations and heat treatment certification programs, the National Plant Board proactively developed a comprehensive set of Firewood Guidelines. These guidelines are now available online, and they contain templates, research references, recommendations, and case studies that will help inform adaptive changes over time.

[See the USDA APHIS rule announcement >>](#)  
[Visit the National Plant Board Firewood Guidelines Site >>](#)

**Time to talk about disposing of Christmas trees properly!**

This year has a record-breaking number of families cutting down “real” Christmas trees- which means its an incredibly important time to remind them to dispose of their Christmas trees properly after the holiday is over! Because there is a low but real chance of a pest risk hiding in or on a tree (such as the hidden eggs of gypsy moth or spotted lanternfly), we recommend municipal composting, tree collection sites for restoration, or the landfill. These choices reduce any lingering pest risks dramatically.

[Learn more about how to talk about safe tree disposal >>](#)

## Winter Webinars and Virtual Meetings

Here’s a few good professional development ideas coming up soon. And remember, we’d LOVE to feature your upcoming firewood and/or forest pest relevant (non-profit, academic, or government) meeting or webinar in an upcoming newsletter.

- [Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council](#) Emerald Ash Borer Web Series will feature a different themes and speakers each week, held Thursday from 1-3pm Central from January 21st to February 25th 2021. Download the [Save the Dates](#) or [Register Now](#) at [WTCAC.org](#)
- The 63rd [Canada Forest Pest Management Forum](#) will be held virtually through Zoom on February 16 & 17, 2021 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm EST. Find info at [CIF-IFC.org](#)
- In Case You Missed It! [Present Status and Update on the Management of Emerald Ash Borer in Canada](#) by the Invasive Species Centre is on YouTube now.

[Tell us about your virtual meeting! >>](#)

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Photo of the month: This photograph of mixed hardwood firewood was taken in Ohio. When the emerald ash borer deregulation is finalized in January 2021, it will be up to the state plant regulatory organization of each state to prevent potentially infested firewood from being brought to, or sold in, their state. Learn more about that decision here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=APHIS-2017-0056-0151>.

## Infestations and Regulations

### Map Quiz: Emerald ash borer

This newsletter has so much emerald ash borer related content that it just feels right to keep going on the theme. So here’s your map quiz- which western US state has a contiguous range of ash trees stretching from its northern to southern border, roughly 100 miles wide?

[Find the answer here >>](#)

FORWARD THIS TO A  
COLLEAGUE »

## In the News

[Federal officials to deregulate ash borer but Minnesota ag leaders vow to continue fighting the spread](#)  
Dec 15 2020

## Don't Move Firewood Campaign

### What happens next?

The Don't Move Firewood campaign is run by The Nature Conservancy to reduce the rate of spread- and thus mitigate the impacts- of forest pests across North America. The campaign is based on the concept that the pathway of firewood should be addressed holistically, and the specific pests that may be in or on firewood are secondary to the idea that firewood itself can pose a threat. **The Don't Move Firewood campaign has always provided outreach materials reflecting the focus on firewood, regardless of if it is from a defined area with a federally regulated pest** (such as emerald ash borer, or Asian longhorned beetle) or not (such as goldspotted oak borer, or thousand cankers disease). Due to this focus, Don't Move Firewood outreach activities after the federal deregulation of emerald ash borer will be largely unchanged- with the exception of updating all materials describing former federal EAB quarantine boundaries. If you have any questions on these anticipated revisions, please reach out to Leigh at [LGreenwood@tnc.org](mailto:LGreenwood@tnc.org)

**Check the holiday greenery for the spotted lanternfly**

**Dec 10 2020**

**Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Spreads To 7 Maine Communities**

**Nov 19 2020**

**China's 40-Year, Billion-Tree Project Is a Lesson for the World**

**Sept 14 2020**

### Share firewood news tips

Input from our readers is vital to the success of this newsletter — and to the mission it serves. Have you heard (or done) something that you think we and other readers should hear about? Please tell us about it!

[Submit Your Story](#)

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