



FIREWOOD MOVEMENT AND THE EMERALD ASH BORER

JULY 2009 UPDATE

DR. STEVE BRATKOVICH
DOVETAIL PARTNERS, INC.

JULY 29, 2009

DOVETAIL PARTNERS INC.

A Trusted Source of Environmental Information



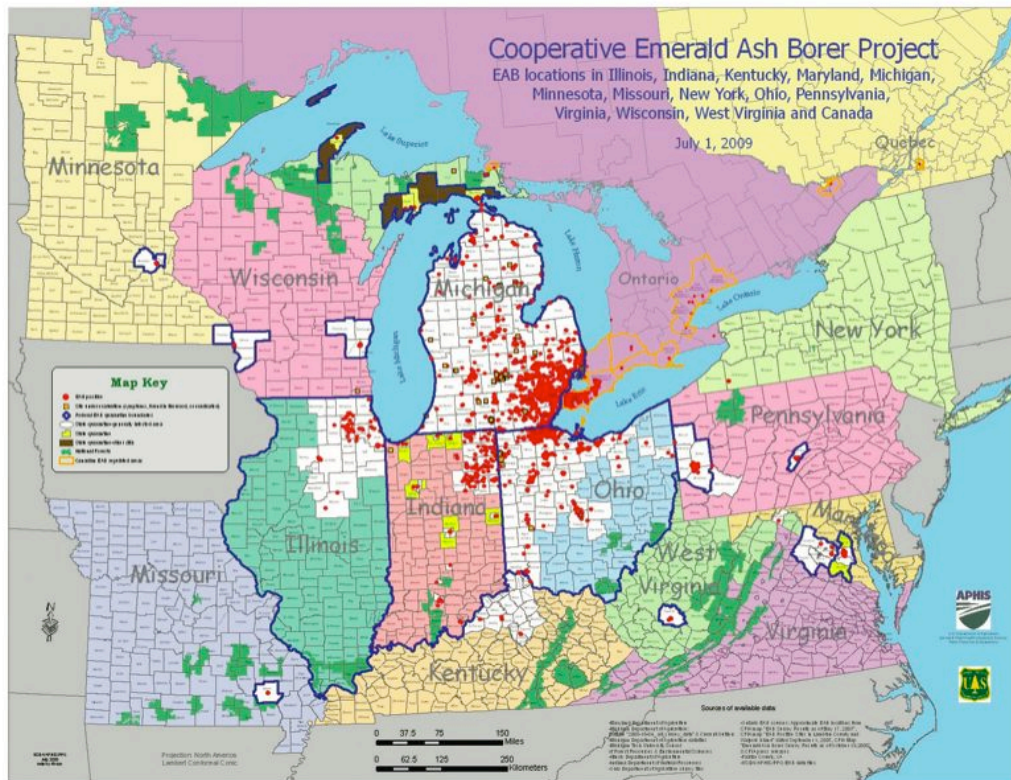
Firewood Movement and the Emerald Ash Borer: July 2009 Update

Overview

Dovetail Partners Inc. released an April 2008 report on *Firewood Movement and the Emerald Ash Borer*.¹ Since the release of this report, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been confirmed in six additional states (Figure 1). In addition to Michigan, Ohio, Maryland, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, EAB is now established in Wisconsin, Missouri and Virginia (summer 2008), and Minnesota, Kentucky and New York (spring 2009). It is also in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada.²

As noted in the April 2008 report, EAB is having far reaching consequences for rural and urban forest managers, owners and users. Because the rapid spread of EAB in the U.S. has been linked to the movement of firewood from infested to non-infested areas, the consequences to firewood producers, marketers, and users are significant. This brief update highlights recent developments as it pertains to EAB and firewood movement.

Figure 1. Map of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Infested States, July 2, 2009
NOTE: Red and White areas represent infestations; Green areas are Federal lands.



Source: http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf

¹ The previous report is available to download from the Dovetail Partners website, <http://www.dovetailinc.org/files/DovetailEAB0408ev.pdf>

² For the most up-to-date locations of EAB infestations, see <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/surveyinfo.cfm>.

Quarantines

In order to slow the spread of EAB, State and/or Federal quarantines are typically established after EAB has been confirmed in a new location. At the state level, regulatory efforts are mostly handled by the state's Department of Agriculture. For federal restrictions, APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service)³ is the lead agency. For example, the discovery of EAB in eastern and western Wisconsin led to a quarantine of six counties: Vernon, Crawford, Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan plus Houston County in Minnesota. The 2009 discovery of EAB in St. Paul, Minnesota, resulted in quarantines of "regulated articles" for Hennepin and Ramsey counties. On a larger scale, APHIS has implemented a quarantine of the lower peninsula of Michigan plus the entire states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Regulated Articles

Quarantines are specific to items referred to as "regulated articles." In the three quarantined Minnesota counties, for example, regulated articles specific to EAB are:

- A. The emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis* (Fairmaire), in any living stage of development.
- B. Entire ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.).
- C. Ash limbs and branches.
- D. Ash logs or untreated ash lumber with bark attached.
- E. Uncomposted ash chips and uncomposted ash bark chips larger than one inch in diameter in two dimensions.
- F. Any article, product or means of conveyance when it is determined by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to present the risk of spread of the emerald ash borer.
- G. Firewood of any non-coniferous (hardwood) species.

Quarantines of regulated articles also outline the specific circumstances whereby "conditions of movement" are permitted. With EAB (and again using Minnesota as an example), the conditions of movement prohibit the sale and/or movement of all ash nursery stock out of the quarantine area; provide guidance on legally moving regulated articles (including firewood) out of the quarantine area; and specify the conditions for transiting (passing through with regulated articles) the quarantine area.⁴

Compliance agreements are typically used by the firewood industry to continue producing and selling firewood while satisfying all state and federal regulations. Sawmills and other wood industries to legally transport ash products also use compliance agreements. For a discussion on compliance agreements relating to EAB and firewood, see the April 2008 Dovetail report.

³ See <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>.

⁴ See <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eabquarantine.htm>

Don't Move Firewood Campaigns

Many states and organizations, including states without EAB infestations, have adopted campaigns to limit firewood movement. As examples, The Nature Conservancy and the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area have both developed “Don't Move Firewood” websites.^{5,6} For information on a specific state's firewood regulations and/or quarantine guidelines, see <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/firewood.cfm>.^{7,8}

The Bottom Line

EAB continues to spread across the country, impacting various segments of society including homeowners, landowners, resource managers, and forest products businesses, including the firewood industry. The expanding restrictions on firewood movement need to be closely monitored by industry as well as individual firewood users. Quarantine boundaries, what constitutes a regulated article, and the specifics of compliance agreements all must be understood in order to safely transport firewood in the wake of an EAB infestation.

For additional information on EAB—and the best one-stop-source on the subject—see: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm>.⁹

⁵ See <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/>

⁶ See <http://na.fs.fed.us/firewood/>

⁷ Minnesota has developed an excellent website on the topic of “Firewood restrictions and safe handling guidelines”. See <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/firewood.htm>.

⁸ For an example of a “Don't move firewood” poster from Wisconsin, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/pdf/FirewoodQuarantineWI.pdf>

⁹ This site also provides a link to the publication titled “Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer.” The publication provides the most current, up-to-date information and research on if, when, and how to treat ash trees.



DOVETAIL PARTNERS, INC.

528 Hennepin Ave, Suite 202

Minneapolis, MN 55403

Phone: 612-333-0430

Fax: 612-333-0432

www.dovetailinc.org