

Firewood as a Vector: The MNDNR Approach

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Why EAB?



Oak Wilt



Gypsy Moth

- EAB rivals chestnut blight in its potential to eliminate species from our forests
- EAB is coming to your area, no matter what
- Even so, economic, environmental & social benefits to prevention & slowing the spread
- Opportunities to plan & prepare
- Time for research, management and education



Emerald Ash Borer



Sirex Wood Wasp



Asian Long-horned Beetle



DED & Euro Elm Beetle

Why Firewood?



- Known to transport EAB, bark beetles and deep wood borers.
- Known to transport fungi that can cause tree diseases like oak wilt and Dutch elm disease.
- Firewood industry largely driven by private use (home heating or recreation).
- Traditional regulations are not well suited to address movement by private individuals.

Why State Campgrounds?



- MNDNR manages 15% of MN campgrounds
- High public profile, set example for others
- Public awareness & behavior change
- Help protect critical forest resources
- Support interagency efforts

Why Not All Firewood?

- Varied cost and availability across the state
- Logistics for staffed and unstaffed lands under different mandates and levels of protection
- MNDNR committed to supporting local economies
- MNDNR committed to being a good neighbor

Why Not All MN Lands?

- The DNR has no authority over other lands
- The state can not restrict trade (against federal law), only regulate it
- Lack of legislative support and resources to regulate all firewood coming into MN
- Other landowners can set their own rules
 - National Forests, COE, several counties and a number of private campgrounds already do

Can I move my wood? Yes, But . .

- If in Hennepin, Ramsey or Houston counties, you need a compliance agreement from the MDA.
- Rules vary across the state, so check with the campground mgr at your destination.
- If wood is wilt infected oak or elm, move only after aging and/or debarking (or burn before 4/1).
- If wood in beetle killed pine, move only after aging or debarking (or burn before 4/1).
- If you have multiple ash trees with bird pecks and thin crowns, contact the MDA to verify that you don't have EAB.
- If in doubt, contact your local forester.

Who Governs What?

- MN Dept of Agriculture (MDA) has authority over terrestrial invasive pests not yet established in MN.
- MDA regulates intrastate trade and can establish state level quarantines
- DNR has authority over aquatic plants and wild animals, and those forest insect and disease pests that are established within the state.
- DNR also has authority over it's own lands, just like any other landowner

What Rules Exist for Firewood?

- Dept of Commerce statute on firewood labeling
- MDA quarantine for EAB in Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston Counties
- DNR restrictions on firewood used on DNR-administered lands



MNDNR Program Goals

- Reduce the risk of new introductions
- Slow the spread of existing infestations (like oak wilt)
- Increase public awareness
- Change public behavior
- Set an example for other land managers



DNR Commissioner's Order

- Applies only to DNR lands.
- Untreated wood must be harvested within 100 miles of the DNR facility where it will be used.
- Treated wood can either be MDA certified heat treated or debarked to federal specifications (bark and 1/2" of sapwood removed)
- Clean, scrap, kiln-dried lumber

Labeling Requirements

Dept of Commerce	Dept of Natural Resources
Name & address	Name & address
Contact information	Contact information
Weights & measures	Not required (but advised)
Unit price	Not required (but advised)
County of harvest <u>IF</u> sold >100mi away	County of harvest
MDA or USDA certification <u>IF</u> from a quarantined area	Required if approved under option B, i.e. heat-treated
Not required	"DNR approved"
Not required	Proof of purchase (receipt, label or DNR ticket)

Certified (MDA) vs Approved (DNR)

- Approved = permission to use certain wood on certain lands. MNDNR approves wood for use on MNDNR-administered lands
- Certified = Rigorous process through which wood is determined to have been treated as per federal guidelines. MDA certifies wood for movement out of quarantined areas and certifies kilns used for heat treatments.

So Which is Better?

In my opinion (debated by some) . . .

- Certified heat treated wood (160° for 75 min) is the best because it kills all known forest pests tested. Check the MDA or USDA shield on the label for the type of treatment.
- Wood aged for 2 yrs or more is nearly as safe, but difficult to document, monitor and enforce (not tracked in MN).
- Local untreated wood (preferably harvested within 25 miles) is next best because you are unlikely to move a pest that isn't already found at your recreation site.
- Other types of treatments (like fumigation and debarking) certified to meet quarantine regulations may address that pest, but not others. And enforcement varies across the US, so the risk of spreading forest pests varies too.

Can my Use My Own Wood?

- No, not unless you are an approved vendor.
- Vendors are businesses or individuals selling wood for a profit.
- Private individuals using their own wood are not considered vendors.
- Although local private wood is technically as safe as approved wood, the DNR wanted to encourage a change in public behavior. So private individuals are discouraged from bringing their own wood.

Vendor Approval Process

- Print & fill out on-line application
- Send to DNR forester for approval
- Different sources & types of wood (treated & untreated) must be stored and processed separately.
- In those cases, DNR forester will inspect the operation.
- Once approved, information entered on public website

 **Vendor Application to sell DNR-Approved Firewood for Lands Administered by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Business name: _____
Contact person: _____
Mailing address: _____
City, state, zip code: _____
Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

To sell approved firewood, you must agree to the following two requirements:

1. I must provide proof of purchase to all customers at the time of sale. Proof of purchase may be the MNDNR "Approved Firewood Vendor" ticket provided by the approving DNR forestry office, sales receipt or firewood label that includes business name, address, telephone number, date and quantity of wood.
2. Firewood originating from an emerald ash borer-quarantined county in MN will be approved only for use in that county. Firewood originating in counties that are adjacent to a quarantined county can only be used in other adjacent counties.

For current quarantine information, see <http://www.mn.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/business/management/eb/quarantine.htm>
_____ (initials) I have read and will comply with these requirements.

There are three options for approved firewood. Please indicate your option(s) by initialing those that apply to the firewood you will sell for use on MNDNR-administered lands.

☐ **A. The non-ash firewood I am selling originated in MN and was harvested within 100 miles of the MNDNR-administered lands (such as a state park or state forest campgrounds) for which I am applying to be an approved firewood vendor.**
Harvest site: County _____ Township _____ Range _____ Section _____
(Include public land survey numbers, not township names).

Fill out a separate application for each county in which firewood was harvested. Applications with more than one county listed, will be approved only for the 1st county listed. Note: vendors in multiple counties are expected to separate and manage wood piles to remain in compliance with the terms of this application.

On the back of this application, please check all locations of DNR-administered lands that are within 100 miles of the harvest site(s) listed.

☐ **B. The firewood I am selling originated in MN and has been treated in a kiln certified by the MN Department of Agriculture. A copy of the documentation verifying certification must be attached to this application.**

☐ **C. The firewood I am selling originated in MN and is 100% debarked according to federal guidelines (removal of 100% of bark and 1/4 inch of the outer sapwood).**

☐ I understand that it is unlawful to sell firewood for use on DNR-administered lands unless I am an approved firewood vendor and agree to the above requirements. I also understand I must follow all state laws concerning firewood, including labeling requirements (MN Statute 239.693 (c) 2007) and quarantine restrictions (State Emergency Quarantine, No. RF-1036).

☐ I can supply and deliver more than 2,000 bundles/year and may be contacted by MNDNR Park staff.

☐ I understand that this approval must be renewed every two years.

☐ I hereby certify that the information I have provided is true and I agree to abide by all requirements.

Vendor signature _____ Approving DNR Forester signature _____
Print Vendor Name _____ Print DNR Forester Name _____
Date _____ Date _____

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Buying Firewood, Look For:

- Bundle label stating the wood's source (i.e. harvest county) – often the distributor's location is not the same as the harvest site.
- MDA or USDA shield with certification number and treatment type.
- “DNR Approved”
- Condition of wood
 - Debarked
 - Signs of pests

	DNR- Approved Firewood Vendor Ticket Fill out information below or use "personalized" stamp.
Vendor Name: _____ Date: _____	
Mailing Address: _____ _____	
Telephone Number: (____) _____	
Quantity (Cords or Cubic meters): _____ Unit Price: _____	
County where harvested: _____	
Present this ticket for use at state-administered facilities.	

Selling Firewood to MNDNR

- Currently handled at varying scales (region, districts or individual park contracts)
- Vendors must be DNR approved
 - If untreated, no ash
 - Heat treated ash ok
- Interested vendors should contact their nearest State Park

What Have We Learned?

- Multiple, at times conflicting values have played a role in shaping the current program.
- The players, strategies and related outreach messages have evolved over time.
- The firewood industry is more diverse, complex and dynamic than previously understood.
- We lack the infrastructure needed to effectively execute the current Commissioner's Order.
- Creating alignment through collaboration is more important than ever.
- We can effectively change public behavior (even in the face of mass public confusion).

What's Next?

- Review current Commissioner's Order – will likely update this winter
- Update infrastructure
- Expand and enhance outreach efforts
- Continue to support interagency efforts





Don't Destroy the Things You Love

**Moving firewood can spread
insects and diseases that**

kill trees.

Please . . . Buy firewood where you camp!



Moving Onward...