

New Firewood Regulations; Quarantine Allamakee County

In an effort to help prevent (EAB), Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey announced that a quarantine of firewood and ash products has been issued for Allamakee County. An EAB infestation has been confirmed along the Mississippi River two miles south of the Minnesota border in Allamakee County.



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The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has also filed proposed rules that will require firewood sold or distributed in Iowa be identified by the county and state of origin.

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“These steps are necessary to help prevent the spread of this destructive insect while hopefully allowing businesses to continue to function,” Northey said. “This quarantine is established to make sure that any ash products that leave Allamakee County do not spread this pest. And, since firewood has been the primary means of transporting the insect and starting new infestations, this rule change focuses on a key risk factor in EAB spreading across the state.”

Quarantine Information

The quarantine orders that regulated articles cannot be moved from Allamakee County unless a permit has been issued by either IDALS or USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or if the article has been treated to exterminate any pests under the supervision of USDA and IDALS.

Regulated articles include EAB at any living state, entire ash trees, firewood of any hardwood species, any cut or fallen material of the ash, non-heat treated ash lumber with either bark or sapwood attached, and hardwood wood or bark chips larger than one inch in two dimension.

A full copy of the quarantine can be found on the department’s website at www.IowaAgriculture.gov under the “Hot Topics” section.

New Firewood Labeling Rules

The department notes that the movement of firewood throughout Iowa and to other states poses the greatest threat to quickly spread EAB even further. Areas currently infested are under federal and state quarantines, but unknowing campers or others who transport firewood can spark an outbreak.

To better track firewood, the department has issued proposed rules to require that every package of firewood offered for sale, sold, or distributed include the harvest location of the wood by county and state. The harvest location of wood sold in bulk must be included on the delivery ticket. The rules will become effective on January 1, 2011.

A copy of the proposed rules is available on the department’s website. Written comments or suggestions on the proposed changes can be made before August 1, 2010. Written comments should be addressed to IDALS, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319, or faxed to 515-281-6236 or emailed to Margaret.Thomson@IowaAgriculture.gov.

To learn more about EAB please visit the following websites:

www.IowaTreePests.com

www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/eab/index.html

www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/EmeraldAshBorer.html