

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**DCNR WARNS CAMPERS OF DANGERS  
OF TRANSPORTING FIREWOOD IN STATE**

*Bureaus of Forestry, State Parks Target Spread of Emerald Ash Borer, Other Forest Pests*

**HARRISBURG** — With the approaching Memorial Day weekend kicking Pennsylvania's traditional camping season into high gear, holiday campers are being asked not to give forest insect pests a free ride by transporting firewood in the commonwealth.

"We want campers to obtain firewood locally and not transport it into our state parks and forestlands," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "We are especially targeting our request to campers coming from states where the emerald ash borer — a forest pest that could prove deadly to our ash trees — already has been discovered."

The ash borer has been identified in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and the Canadian Province of Ontario. Also, the Asian long-horned beetle, another insect easily spread in firewood, exists in Illinois, New York, New Jersey and Toronto, Canada.

"We know campers coming from these already infected areas may not hear our warning, so we're hoping Pennsylvanians who often share cabins or campsites with them spread the message, 'Leave the firewood at home; buy it or cut it locally,'" said DiBerardinis. "Not only is it illegal to move wood from a quarantined area, it's not a wise idea to move any firewood anywhere in the state, especially with the ongoing threat of other insects and diseases to our state's forests."

Usually visible from May to August, the adult emerald ash borer beetles are slightly less than one-inch long, thin and bright metallic green in color. The beetle, which feeds in the tissues under the bark of ash trees, has claimed more than 10 million trees in Michigan alone.

If infected firewood was transported into Pennsylvania, the emerald ash borer could emerge next spring and begin feeding on ash trees. It prefers green and white ash but will target all ash trees, regardless of whether they are healthy or stressed. First identified in North America in 2002, the emerald ash borer causes the girdling and death of branches and entire trees.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry participates in a multi-agency task force assembled to detect and control this invasive threat to Pennsylvania ash trees. Other cooperating members of the task force include the state Department of Agriculture, Penn State Cooperative Extension, the USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine and the USDA Forest Service.

Overseeing 117 state parks, most of which offer camping, the Bureau of State Parks has posted warnings and information at campgrounds and on DCNR's Web site: [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us) (click State Parks). Similar information soon will be passed on to campers reserving sites online.

Since 2003, DCNR has been surveying for the early detection of emerald ash borer on state-owned forestlands. That same year, 18 surveillance sites were established in Erie County. Surveillance efforts were expanded in 2004 to 20 sites in 13 counties: Beaver, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Mercer, Somerset, Tioga, Venango and Washington.

The state Department of Agriculture and USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine also are conducting surveys in nurseries and urban areas. No emerald ash borer or Asian long-horned beetles have been detected in Pennsylvania.

Signs of emerald ash borer infestation include upper crown dieback, woodpecker damage, "S"-shaped galleries under the bark and "D"-shaped emergence holes. To report possible infested trees in Pennsylvania, contact DCNR's Division of Forest Pest Management at (717) 948-3941, or [BadBug@state.pa.us](mailto:BadBug@state.pa.us); or the Department of Agriculture toll free at (866) 253-7189.