



Colorado State Forest Service
5060 Campus Delivery
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060
970.491.6303; FAX 970.491.7736
<http://csfs.colostate.edu/>

NEWS

For Immediate Release

May 22, 2014

Contacts for Reporters:

Ryan Lockwood or Brian Woodward
970-491-8970

Transporting Firewood Dangerous to Colorado's Trees

FORT COLLINS, Colo. —With Memorial Day weekend quickly approaching, campfires are on the minds of many Coloradans, and some may plan to bring their own firewood with them. But moving firewood even short distances can be very dangerous to both Colorado's native forests and urban trees.

With the 2013 detection of the highly destructive emerald ash borer (EAB) in the City of Boulder, and ongoing bark beetle epidemics in the state's mountain forests, the Colorado State Forest Service wants to be sure people are aware of the risks associated with moving firewood. The transportation of firewood is a common cause for the accidental introduction of harmful tree insects and diseases to new areas. Insects, fungi and diseases can hitch a ride on cut wood - from both living and dead trees - and are often hidden away under the bark.

"It has never been a good practice to transport firewood, but with the recent discovery of emerald ash borer in Boulder, it's critical that residents and visitors obtain firewood where they plan to burn it," said Keith Wood, CSFS community forestry program manager.

The CSFS offers the following firewood tips to help Coloradans protect their trees and forests:

- Always try to burn firewood at the location where you buy or cut it. Leave whatever wood you don't burn behind.
- Don't ever bring wood into Colorado from other states, or vice-versa. Also, ask firewood dealers questions about the origin of the wood prior to purchase.
- If using firewood bundles for camping, buy from a local vendor. The best option is wood labeled with the Colorado Forest Products logo; at least 50 percent of this wood is certified to be from Colorado forests, and more than 65 vendors around the state participate in this program.
- Learn to identify the symptoms of common pests in the type of wood you plan to burn.
- Know Colorado's quarantine rules and regulations, including those related to EAB, before transporting any wood products.

Gov. John Hickenlooper declared this week, May 18-24, as Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in Colorado, to increase public awareness and understanding of the destructive exotic insect.

For more information about insects and disease that threaten Colorado trees, see the 2013 Colorado Forest Insect and Disease Update at <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/2013FHR-InsectDiseaseUpdate.pdf>. Additional tips on how to prevent the spread of EAB in Colorado are available at www.eabcolorado.com.