

## **FAQ: Moving Ash From Areas Regulated Because of Emerald Ash Borer Detections**



In Maine, movement of ash and hardwood firewood from certain areas is restricted either due to quarantine rules or emergency orders related to the emerald ash borer. A federal quarantine on emerald ash borer also applies to some parts of Maine.

### **What is an emergency order?**

An emergency order is a tool used at the discretion of the Director of the Maine Forest Service to limit the spread of organisms that are destructive to the forest. The authority for the order is found in Maine Revised Statutes Title 12, Section 8305.

<http://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/12/title12sec8305.html>

An emergency order allows flexibility while more is learned about the presence and distribution of a pest; in this case, the emerald ash borer. It may be followed by a formal quarantine.

### **How is an emergency order different from a quarantine?**

A quarantine on emerald ash borer will come under the authority of the office of the Commissioner through the Horticulture Program (<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/7/title7ch409sec0.html>). There will be parallel state and federal quarantines covering both in-state and inter-state movement of regulated items. The federal authority for quarantine lies with the US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Federal quarantine rules for emerald ash borer can be found at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/emerald-ash-borer>.

### **Which areas in Maine are included in the state quarantine rules?**

In southern Maine, the areas under quarantine include all of York County, all of Cumberland County, and the following towns in Oxford County: Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Hiram, and Porter. In northern Maine, the quarantine area includes the following towns in Aroostook County: Cross Lake Township (T17 R5 WELS), Cyr Plantation, Eagle Lake, Fort Kent, Frenchville, Grand Isle, Hamlin, Madawaska, Madawaska Lake Township (T16 R4 WELS), New Canada, Saint Agatha, Sinclair Township (T17 R4 WELS), Stockholm, T16 R5 WELS, T16 R6 WELS, T17 R3 WELS, Van Buren and Wallagrass. State quarantine rules and a map of the quarantine area can be found at [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab).

### **Which areas of Maine are included in an Emergency Order?**

There are currently no areas in Maine under emergency order status. All areas previously under emergency order have been incorporated into the formal quarantine area.

### **I understand that there is also a federal quarantine. What does that mean?**

Federal quarantine rules can be found on-line at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/emerald-ash-borer>. Federal rules apply to movement of

regulated material from Maine to other states or countries outside of the federal quarantine or into unregulated areas of Maine from other states or countries. A map of the federal quarantine is available at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info). For information on requirements for moving articles out of quarantined areas in Maine to other states or countries, contact the USDA-APHIS State Plant Health Director, (207) 848-0001.

### **What items are impacted by the quarantine rules (regulated articles)?**

Regulated articles include:

- All life stages of emerald ash borer,
- Rooted ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) for planting (not mountain-ash),
- Hardwood firewood that has not been heat treated,
- Hardwood chips,
- Ash roundwood (logs, pulpwood, etc.)
- Other ash material with bark,
- Ash green lumber (lumber that has not been heat treated)

Some of these cannot be moved out of the quarantine area. Others can be moved, but only under a compliance agreement.

### **What is a compliance agreement?**

It is an agreement between the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and the regulated person or industry that allows for the movement of regulated material within Maine. The agreement holder agrees to process or handle regulated material in specified ways to reduce the risk of moving emerald ash borer to the greatest extent possible. USDA-APHIS issues similar agreements for movement of material into or from other unregulated states or provinces.

### **What if I only plan to move ash within the quarantine/regulated area?**

There are no regulations associated with emerald ash borer that limit movement within a quarantined or regulated area. However, to reduce the spread of emerald ash borer to uninfested parts of those areas it is recommended that you:

- Deliver ash wood within 5 miles of its origin; OR
- Transport ash firewood or logs to a mill or kiln after October 1 for processing before May 1; OR
- Cut and season ash at its place of origin for 12 months before distribution; OR
- Chip ash material to 1" in two of three dimensions; AND
- In all cases, notify all recipients that there is a risk of infestation from this wood and it should be burned, chipped, sawn into lumber or heat treated by May 1 of the following year.

### **What if I want to move ash from the quarantine area to areas outside the quarantine?**

Regulated articles can only move out of the quarantine area legally under a compliance agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) for movement of regulated materials within the state or with USDA-APHIS for movement of products across state lines.

### **Who needs a compliance agreement?**

- Anyone moving regulated material out of the quarantine area.
- Anyone outside the quarantine area receiving regulated material from within the quarantine area.
- They are available to loggers, truckers, portable and stationary chippers, mills or any other type of facilities or persons potentially handling regulated materials from the quarantine area.

### **How will you verify that ash isn't moving illegally?**

There will be random checks of active harvests and records. Markets will provide some pressure because wood processors risk loss of certification and other penalties if they receive wood from regulated areas without proper agreements.

### **How can I tell if wood has been harvested within the regulated area?**

Trip tickets and Forest Operation Notification information may help with most of these concerns. The Maine Forest Service will maintain a list of individuals interested in receiving a list of active harvests within the quarantine area. Interested parties can subscribe to this list by sending an email to [forestinfo@maine.gov](mailto:forestinfo@maine.gov).

### **Will you check firewood moving out of the regulated area?**

Firewood is checked by Forest Rangers and other DACF personnel.

### **Where can I find more information about emerald ash borer?**

[www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab) is the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's information page about emerald ash borer.

Acknowledgements: Some information from this FAQ was adapted from [www.NHBugs.org](http://www.NHBugs.org).