

## **FAQ: EMERGENCY ORDER to STOP MOVEMENT of ASH FROM the EMERALD ASH BORER-INFESTED AREA of MAINE AUGUST 2018**



### **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 State Revised Statutes Title 12, Subsection 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. A formal quarantine will follow.

### **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 quarantine 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>.

### **What area is included in the emergency order?**

The Order Area includes the towns of Grand Isle, Frenchville and Madawaska and in Aroostook County. Surveys indicate that there are ash infested by EAB in these towns.

### **How long will the order be in place?**

We expect the order to be in place until a quarantine is finalized. It will be updated as needed and renewed every 120 days.

### **What products are restricted (Regulated Articles in the order)?**

There will be a stop movement order on the following products:

- Rooted ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) and for planting (not Mountain-ash)
- Hardwood firewood that has not been heat treated in a process certified by the Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry
- Ash roundwood (logs, pulpwood, etc.)
- Chipped material with ash
- Ash green lumber (lumber that has not been heat treated)

### **What if I am harvesting wood inside the ash-borer restricted area?**

If you are not harvesting ash, your harvest will not be impacted, unless you are harvesting and processing the trees for firewood within the restricted area. Hardwood firewood will not be allowed to move out of the restricted area.

Untreated ash products cannot move to areas outside the restricted area except with a shipping permit issued by the Maine Forest Service. Movement outside of the regulated area will only be allowed to

facilities that have an agreement to receive regulated ash and must be in accordance with those agreements.

Heat treatment is possible, anybody wanting to move heat treated products will need to have a process certified by the Maine Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

After a formal quarantine is in place, treatments will need to be certified by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for any regulated articles moving to non-quarantined areas in other states.

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

There will be random checks of active harvests. 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 order 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 Order Area. Interested parties can subscribe to this list by sending an email to [forestinfo@maine.gov](mailto:forestinfo@maine.gov) or under

**Will you check firewood moving out of the restricted area?**

Firewood will be checked by Forest Rangers and others.

**Can wood that is harvested outside the Order Area, then brought into the Order area, be moved back outside of the Order Area?**

No. This is not allowed because of the difficulty of tracking wood origin after the first measurement.

**When will we know where else emerald ash borer is?**

We will have additional survey results after the purple traps come down in early fall and trap trees are processed in late-fall. None of the available tools for detection are perfect, we may not find additional infested areas for several years, or we may find them tomorrow.

**Why not include the whole state in the Emergency Order?**

The only place in Maine known to have emerald ash borer is in the towns of Madawaska, Frenchville, and Grand Isle. The emerald ash borer can move to new areas of the state in infested wood products. A stop movement order can help slow the spread of this pest.

The emerald ash borer threatens to eliminate ash as a significant part of the forest in north America and beyond. It was virtually unknown when it was first detected in the United States in 2002. Today we know a lot more about emerald ash borer, it's natural enemies and how ash species from Asia survive attacks by this insect. Slowing the spread of emerald ash borer buys time for continued work on tools to keep ash in our forests. It also slows down the loss of ash for industries and others who rely on it.

**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.