

## **Talking Points for Campground Surveys:**

### **Purpose of campground survey:**

Invasive forest pests, like emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle have not been discovered in Vermont. If introduced to our state, these invasive pests will cause economic and environmental damage. These pests, found in neighboring states, can be easily and unknowingly transported on firewood. Presence of the invasive pests are difficult to detect at low levels, so the purpose of this survey is to have more eyes on the ground searching for any potential infestations. The sooner infestations are found, the quicker the response can be to minimize the impacts of these pests.

### **Moving firewood threatens our trees, communities, and economy:**

Firewood can carry invasive insects and diseases that can kill native trees. New infestations of these insects and diseases can destroy our forests, decrease property values, and cost a great deal to monitor, manage, and control.

### **Non-native insects and diseases cause problems because they didn't evolve in our environment:**

Non-native insects and diseases have few (if any) predators, and the native trees have few natural defenses against them. Invasive insects and diseases reproduce quickly and can kill our native trees. The [emerald ash borer](#) and [Asian longhorned beetle](#) are two such pests that we are concerned about in New England.

### **The best way to protect Vermont against invasive insects and diseases is to obtain local firewood where it will be burned:**

When we say local firewood, we are referring to the closest convenient source of wood that you can find. That might be from down the street, or a state forest in your county. As a very general rule of thumb, 10 miles or less is best, and more than 50 miles is too far.

### **There are regulations about moving firewood into Vermont:**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 a rule prohibiting the importation of untreated firewood into Vermont went into effect. This rule regulates only firewood (defined as wood processed for burning and less than 48 inches in length) and does not include wood chips, pellets, pulpwood, or wood for manufacturing purposes. Firewood treated to the USDA Standard of 160 degrees F (71 C) for at least 75 minutes at a certified treatment facility and accompanied by a certification of treatment is allowed. By written request, the Commissioner may waive this prohibition under conditions which ensure that the firewood poses minimal threat to forest health. Violations may result in confiscation of firewood and/or a civil citation. More information can be found at [http://fpr.vermont.gov/fpr.vermont.gov/forest/forest\\_health/health\\_management/firewood\\_quarantine](http://fpr.vermont.gov/fpr.vermont.gov/forest/forest_health/health_management/firewood_quarantine)

**Even if firewood has no visible signs of insect or disease infestation it is still not safe to transport it:**

Tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungus spores, can elude even experts. These tiny threats are enough to disrupt an entire ecosystem. Never assume wood that “looks safe” is safe to move.

**If firewood is heat treated then it is safe to move long distances:**

Most packaged **heat treated firewood** is considered safe to move. Please note that just being labeled "kiln-dried" is quite different, and should not be considered safe to move. For more information, please visit the Don't Move Firewood blog from November 2013, [When is it OK to move firewood?](#) or our blog from March 2014, [Kiln Dried vs Heat Treated Firewood](#).

**If firewood has been moved over 50 miles, it should be completely burned as soon as possible:**

The best option is to burn non-local firewood quickly, completely, and safely. Make sure to also rake up any dropped leaves, bark, twigs or other debris and burn them as well. Do not leave it there, and do not bring it back to where it was from.

**Research has shown that concerns about the price, convenience, and quality of firewood are the largest motivators for people to transport firewood:**

A study of firewood movement in northern New England by the University of Maine found that if campers knew that the firewood at their campsite would be reasonably priced, good quality, and convenient, they were less likely to bring their own firewood. Campgrounds are encouraged to advertise local sources of firewood at or near by the campground on websites, registration materials, or over the phone to perspective campers.

**More information about firewood in Vermont can be found at:**

Visit the [Don't Move Firewood webpage](#) at VTinvasives.org

Visit the [Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation](#) website for information about Vermont specific firewood regulations.