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## Minnesota Department of Agriculture Quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer: Ramsey & Hennepin Counties

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*A quarantine is currently in effect on Ramsey and Hennepin counties to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer to new areas through the movement of infested wood and tree parts.*

### What is Emerald Ash Borer?

Emerald Ash borer is an insect that attacks and kills ash trees. The adults are small, iridescent green beetles that live outside of trees during the summer months. The larvae are worm-like and live underneath the bark of ash trees. Trees are killed by the tunneling of the larva under the tree's bark.



Adult Emerald Ash Borer on penny for size reference  
(photo: H. Russell, MSU, Bugwood.org)

### Why should I care about Emerald Ash Borer?

All ash trees are susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer and millions of ash trees have been killed in infested areas already. Minnesota has one of the highest volumes of ash on forestland in the U.S. with an estimated 900 million forestland ash trees. Furthermore, ash is a prominent component of our urban forests. The potential economic and environmental impacts of losing these trees are substantial.



S-shaped tunnel created by Emerald Ash Borer larva under bark of ash tree  
(photo: D. Cappaert, MSU, Bugwood.org)

### Where is Emerald Ash Borer?

On May 14, 2009, the Emerald Ash Borer was detected in St. Paul, MN – the first known infestation of this pest in our state. In April, the pest was found in Wisconsin, less than one mile from Houston County in southeast Minnesota. This pest is native to eastern Asia, but was discovered in Michigan and Ontario in 2002. Currently, Emerald Ash Borer is known to occur in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Canada.

### Why quarantine both Ramsey & Hennepin counties?

The known infestation of Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota is located in Ramsey County near the border with Hennepin County. The infestation likely extends beyond the known area, so both Ramsey and Hennepin counties have been quarantined. The quarantine boundaries may be adjusted as more is learned about the size of the infestation. The emergency quarantine has been enacted to protect ash trees in other parts of Minnesota.

# **Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Status in Ramsey & Hennepin Counties**

## **State Emergency Quarantine**

On May 15, 2009, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture modified State Emergency Quarantine No. RF-1036 for Emerald Ash Borer to add Ramsey and Hennepin counties to the list of quarantined counties in Minnesota. This quarantine regulates the movement of articles out of Ramsey, Hennepin & Houston counties to other parts of Minnesota. The articles regulated by this quarantine are:

1. The Emerald Ash Borer, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, in any living stage of development.
2. Entire ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.).
3. Ash limbs and branches.
4. Ash logs or untreated ash lumber with bark attached.
5. Uncomposted ash chips and uncomposted ash bark chips larger than one inch in diameter in two dimensions.
6. Any article, product or means of conveyance when it is determined by the Commissioner to present the risk of spread of the emerald ash borer.
7. Firewood of any non-coniferous (hardwood) species.

The emergency quarantine applies to movement of these materials by any entity for commercial, recreational or any other purpose. There are opportunities for entities with a need to export articles out of a quarantined county to enter into compliance agreements with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to allow for movement of most of these articles provided they have been handled in such a way as to ensure they are free of living Emerald Ash Borer.

## **State Formal Quarantine**

State emergency quarantines are temporary by nature. In order to establish a formal state quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer Minnesota Statutes Section 18G.06, subd. 5(b) (2008) requires public notification and consideration of public comments. Please see the following page for further information on informational open houses and opportunities for public comment. The provisions of the formal quarantine will be similar to those of the above mentioned State emergency quarantine.

## **Federal Quarantine**

A parallel federal quarantine will likely be placed on Hennepin and Ramsey counties to regulate the movement of articles from these counties to other states.

# **Easy Guide for Emerald Ash Borer Regulations**

## **Nurseries**

Ash nursery stock is prohibited from being distributed outside of the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine area.

## **Mills & Loggers**

Ash logs cannot be moved out of the quarantine area during the adult flight period (roughly April 1 through September 30) unless fumigated or debarked. From October 1 through March 31, ash logs may be allowed to be moved to an approved mill outside of the quarantine area for processing by March 31. Bark and wood waste must be processed by March 31. These processes must be approved by state or federal agriculture agencies. Contact officials for further information.

## **Firewood Producers & Users**

All hardwood firewood is prohibited from distribution outside the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine area unless it has been heat treated, fumigated or debarked (plus removal of ½ inch of wood). These processes must be approved by state or federal agriculture agencies. Firewood not for commercial sale (homeowner use) may be moved within the quarantine area but users should avoid moving firewood any distance from the area the wood originated from to reduce further spread of Emerald Ash Borer.

## **Green Lumber Manufacturers**

Ash lumber will need to be processed in an approved manner, such as complete removal of bark (plus ½ inch of wood), kiln drying by approved standards, or fumigation prior to distribution out of the quarantine area. All processes will need approval by state or federal agencies. Contact officials for further information.

## **Pallet Producers**

Ash lumber (generated from ash from the quarantine area) used to make pallets will need to be processed in a manner approved by state or federal agencies. Contact officials for further information.

## **Tree Care Professionals**

Wood waste from pruning, storm damage, or removals is prohibited from being distributed outside the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine, and should not be moved from the point of action in order to reduce the spread of EAB. Locations for wood waste drop-off may be established in the near future. Contact officials for more information.

## **Informational Open Houses and Request for Public Comments: Minnesota Ash Borer Quarantine for Ramsey & Hennepin counties**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will hold informational open houses to provide information on the biology, impacts and spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, information will be provided on the current emergency quarantine and the proposed state formal quarantine.

### **Open House Details**

#### **Ramsey County**

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Place: South St. Anthony Park Recreational Center

Gymnasium

890 Cromwell Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55114

#### **Hennepin County**

Date: Monday, June 8, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Place: St. Louis Park Recreational Center

Banquet Room

3700 Monterey Drive

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

The MDA is seeking public comment on a formal state quarantine for Ramsey and Hennepin counties that will replace the current emergency state quarantine. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the open house meetings mentioned above. Additional public comments will be accepted until June 30, 2009. Please submit your written comments via mail, fax or email to:

Robert Koch  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Email: robert.koch@state.mn.us  
Fax: 651-201-6108

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### **For More Information Contact...**

**The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's  
Arrest the Pest Hotline:**

**651-201-6684 (metro) or  
888-545-6684 (greater Minnesota)**

**Or visit: [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)**