



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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### NEW EMERGENCY FIREWOOD RESTRICTION IN EFFECT ON NATIONAL FOREST

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis. – August 21, 2008.** For the past several years, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been making a deadly migration through the eastern US and Canada. Originally discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002, EAB has been now detected in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, Missouri and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

EAB has killed millions of ash trees in these states and provinces. It was recently found in two locations near Newburg, Wisconsin in Ozaukee and Washington counties.

In response to the threat of the EAB reaching the Forest, the Chequamegon-Nicolet is tightening its restriction on the movement of firewood. For two years the Forest has not allowed any firewood from outside of Wisconsin. The revised restriction will now further limit firewood from south of State Highway 29. Any firewood gathered north of State Highway 29 within the Wisconsin borders is allowable. Purchasing firewood from vendors north of State Highway 29 is also acceptable.



Unable to travel more than a couple of miles on its own, the EAB needs to hitch a ride to get around. Most experts believe it has made its rapid spread by people who have transported infested firewood. Since EAB is an exotic insect from Asia, it has no natural local predators and diseases allowing populations to build without any controls.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has issued a quarantine in an effort to help prevent the human aided spread of EAB. The quarantine includes all of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties. The purpose of the quarantine is to limit the spread of EAB which may be present in ash nursery stock, hardwood firewood, timber or other articles that could spread EAB into other areas of Wisconsin or other states.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest continues to work cooperatively with the US Forest Service State and Private section; Michigan Tech University; Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service on the detection and management of EAB.

Report suspicious ash trees or request information by calling the Wisconsin EAB Program hotline toll-free at 1-800-462-2803.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer and other forest pests, visit:

<http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/4501/eab/>

For information on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, visit:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/>

For information on Wisconsin's state forests and parks, visit:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/>