

Outstanding Achievement Award

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The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive species of wood-boring beetles, native to China and eastern Asia that targets ash trees in North America. It was first detected in July of 2002 in southeastern Michigan and has since been found in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Illinois and most recently in Pennsylvania. More than 177,934 square miles are currently quarantined due to the presence of the beetle. EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees in the United States.

Nomination: Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program

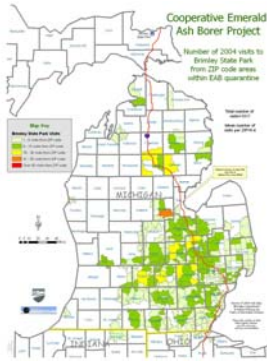
Movement of EAB occurs by natural and artificial means. Natural movement can be monitored only to the effectiveness of our lures, traps, and sampling techniques. Artificial movement can be monitored through the identification of pathways and potential movers and users of ash host materials. The EAB regulatory program has significantly impacted the artificial movement through implementation of regulatory procedures/policies and initiatives which have; (1) identified pathways and establishments for ash host material; (2) evaluated the risk of artificial movement via these pathways and establishments; and (3) initiated regulatory and outreach activities which help mitigate the artificial spread of the emerald ash borer. The actions and initiatives listed below have significantly raised issues about the artificial movement of EAB via firewood and pallets and will have an immediate and future affect on PPQ policy and future policy decisions concerning firewood and pallets as a vector for wood boring pests.

Understanding ash host material movement is important to effectively regulate and evaluate risk of spreading EAB to uninfested areas. With initiative and creativity, the EAB staff identified, and continues to identify, through internet searches, special interests groups, industry contacts, program cooperators, etc. Over 3,063 industry types were identified including the following; firewood dealers, garden centers, haulers, landscapers, logging companies, mills, mill and manufacturing businesses, railroads, pallet companies, mulch/chip manufacturers, municipalities, nurseries, tree removal services, private campgrounds, public campgrounds, research facilities, firewood auction businesses, e-Bay advertisers, race tracks, baseball bat manufacturers, and other special interest groups, were contacted about the risks of moving ash host materials. From the information gathered, these groups were ranked for risk of host material movement and, as a result, more than 450 compliance agreements were initiated and are presently active.

Risk was based on the type of product produced, the method of mitigation, and the destination of the products and by-products. Out of all industry types visited the program determined that the greatest risk for EAB spread was nursery stock, firewood, and wood packing material (WPM). Nursery stock is highly regulated by individual states therefore the program has focused mainly on the movement of firewood and WPM.

Pathways in which firewood and WPM move are important to determine regulatory risk and an appropriate regulatory response. Our evaluation of pathways have led to several types of regulatory activities which targeted host material movement via rail, ferries, passenger traffic, and commercial traffic. Regulatory activities included inspections of possible vectors and also involved cooperation from law enforcement personnel i.e. State Police and State Motor Carrier Enforcement (MCE).

One example of our evaluation of firewood movement was an approach using zip code data from park registries. The State Park in Brimley, MI supplied registry info from campers and GIS specialist Doug



Bopp produced a map showing the numbers of travelers visiting the park originating from an area known to have EAB. Although EAB was found in Brimley State Park prior to receiving the zip code data, this analysis proved to be a valuable tool for targeting surveys. The technique was offered to all SPHDs, USFS, USPS, and other identified high risk sites. To date, we have identified travelers originating from quarantined areas visiting States as far as Tennessee, Texas, and South Dakota.

Firewood has also been tracked through commercial movement which resulted in regulatory actions, including a national recall.

Illegal movement from a quarantined area in IN was distributed through a large chain store to several non-quarantined areas in OH, IL, WI, MI, IN, and NC. The firewood was brokered by a company in California. There are other examples of firewood movement which illustrate this pathways potential damage which can be presented for further support. The following is a recap of ongoing regulatory activities, including types of.



8 main regulatory operation types targeted specifically at firewood movement

Motor Carrier Enforcement; Campground; Roadside; Ferry; Regulatory Contacts/Campground (examples: Smoky Mountain Op, Angler Op); Rest Area; Kenton Coon Dog Trials (miscellaneous); post-NASCAR, MI Mackinaw Bridge

21 TOTAL operations during the period 4/18/2006-9/1/2006

includes IN,OH,MI and TN/NC operations

7 operations in MI for the period 10/1/2006-present

In several activities between the Ohio-Michigan border, Ohio State Police stopped traffic and roadside inspections occurred.

Another issue of concern for movement of EAB is wood packing materials. Ash green lumber is regulated for Emerald Ash Borer and can not leave the quarantined areas without treatment by kiln drying, fumigation, or rendered mechanically bark free including removal of 1/2 inch of the tissue under the bark. The industry standard for mill production of commercial grade green lumber leaves residual bark on up to 25% of the lumber produced. By-products of this lumber milling are utilized in the construction of pallets. In addition to using cant wood, lower quality boards and slab wood are utilized, some with rounded edges remaining and a higher percentage of residual bark than the commercial green lumber. Pallets constructed of this wood can harbor viable EAB larvae and/or pupae that can emerge as adults into the environs of the pallets final destination. If the pallet is stacked outside a warehouse in an industrial complex landscaped with ash you risk EAB establishment. It is estimated that 450 million pallets are produced annually and more than 200 million are refurbished. With 25% residual bark on only a portion of these pallets the numbers which potentially have bark moving across the US is extremely large. The EAB programs continued monitoring and regulating of these materials has increased awareness on the issues of WPM across the quarantined states and raised the level of concern to possible national regulations for domestic movement.

The following can be directly related to the EAB programs regulatory efforts.

Achievements occurring across quarantine areas and non-EAB states:

- Firewood campground operations; including camper interviews and outreach upon entrance into the campground and firewood monitoring within campgrounds.
- Firewood roadside operations including post-NASCAR events. Program personnel identified NASCAR events as a pathway for artificial spread of EAB via firewood movement. Post-MIS roadside operations have been conducted on high-risk routes. It has also been discovered that fans follow the NASCAR circuit and will take their firewood with them (example MIS to Bristol Motor Speedway)
- Motor carrier enforcement (MCE) collaboration has proven successful. Unlike PPQ Officers, MCE has the authority to stop vehicles. To date, this effort has yielded 3 EAB violations and 12 Gypsy Moth violations (IN – Rick McKay has been instrumental in setting this in motion).
- New firewood heat treatment initiated and developed (through collaborative effort with CPHST)
- Pallets to be included as a regulated article in quarantine revision; pallets will be regulated at point of manufacture (F.O. under review).
- Raised the level of awareness of States outside the EAB quarantined area by encouraging them to conduct regulatory operations targeting commodities and people traveling from quarantined areas.
- National attention on firewood and pallets for domestic movement regulations, and a possible national policy in the future on pallets. This has also resulted in numerous industry meetings and contacts.
- Multi-state campaign for not moving firewood.
- Individual state policies on firewood movement.
- Increased cooperation and communication with State cooperator's law enforcement agencies.
- Increased cooperation and communication with special interests groups such as the Amish and Native Americans.
- Increase in outreach events i.e. EAB Clinics, media coverage, exposure to local government.

The staff within EAB is motivated and their work is exceptional. They always work to reach or exceed clearly defined goals and believe their efforts will have a positive impact. This is a multi-state regulatory team which adapts to new regulations and information on a moment's notice. If there is any additional information or clarification I can provide please contact me.

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