

What will happen if Emerald Ash Borer is found in my community?

Quick facts for town officials

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a major threat to Vermont's trees. Once this insect is introduced, untreated ash trees start dying within a few years. Because it is easily moved long distances by humans, EAB can appear anywhere at any time. EAB has been detected in neighboring states and is expected to spread into Vermont soon. This pest is regulated by state and federal agencies, so its spread is monitored and its appearance in a new location triggers a number of actions.

EAB infestations in Vermont will be subject to regulatory action. Quarantines will be put in place by state and federal agencies to regulate the movement of any potentially infested material—firewood, and ash nursery stock, logs, brush, and chips. State quarantines typically follow county boundaries and federal quarantines typically follow state boundaries. Regulated material may be moved within the quarantine zone, but cannot be moved outside the zone unless it meets standards as published in the federal EAB regulation. Depending on specific circumstances, early or isolated infestations may also be subject to additional measures, such as establishing trap trees in an attempt to define the infestation and cutting trees with high levels of EAB larvae to slow the insect spread. As more infestations are found and the infested areas begin to coalesce into a larger area, quarantine areas will expand. Control tactics will change somewhat and there will be more emphasis on long-term management across a wider landscape.

What will happen when EAB is confirmed in my town?



UGA1241011

1. The Vermont Invasive Forest Pest Action Plan's modified Incident Command System (ICS) structure will be employed to meet response needs, including survey, regulation, outreach, and management activities. The advantage of using the ICS structure is that it establishes a common set of objectives and strategies, allowing for a team effort between all agencies and organizations.
2. Your town will be notified, and the State will issue a media advisory. News media may contact you. State staff will not call a press conference, but if you do, they will attend if invited.

3. If the extent of the infestation is unknown, a delimiting survey will be conducted to define the infested area and help clarify management alternatives. This surveying can take several months.
4. Affected landowners, resource managers, stakeholders, local governments and planning commissions, agency staff and partner groups with associated responsibilities, and technical advisors will be notified, and input will be sought regarding management actions and impacts.
5. Your county, and possibly adjacent counties, will be quarantined to restrict movement of regulated ash material and all hardwood firewood, limiting further spread of EAB. A quarantine is a system of rules intended to help prevent the spread of EAB by slowing its movement, tracking regulated ash material from origin to final destination, and that uses compliance agreements to monitor the proper disposition of regulated materials. State agencies will notify and work with affected businesses in the quarantine area to ensure regulated materials meet movement conditions as set forth in the federal EAB regulation. USDA APHIS will work with businesses on the movement of regulated materials outside of Vermont.
6. State agencies can provide additional education & assistance for municipal officials and staff, residents, & businesses, and will direct you to the right resources to get your questions answered.
7. Your municipality will need to budget for management activities. At this time, there is no state or federal funding for the treatment or removal of individual trees.
8. You are strongly encouraged to prepare for the arrival of EAB! Actions taken now can reduce this insect's impact and save your community money.

For assistance with Forest Pest Planning please contact:

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Learn more:

<http://vtcommunityforestry.org/community-planning/tree-pests>