

IMPORTATION OF FIREWOOD

Philosophy:

With increasing global trade, our forests are getting more pressure from harmful insects and diseases inadvertently brought to North America. Importing firewood from outside Vermont increases the risk of introducing non-native pests. A pest that spreads slowly on its own can be moved hundreds of miles in a single day. Insects and diseases can be in, on or under the bark of firewood, or deep within the wood; they are often hidden, or too small to see.

Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle are two of the most worrisome forest pests threatening Vermont. Together they have the potential to infest nearly half of our trees. There are federal quarantines on firewood movement from areas known to be infested with these insects. However, it can take years to detect them when they spread to new locations.

Many other forest insects and diseases that are not known to be established in Vermont could be imported with firewood. Some that have infested trees in nearby states include oak wilt, European larch canker, brown spruce longhorned beetle, siren woodwasp, and winter moth.

Policy:

It is the policy of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation that untreated firewood originating from any location outside Vermont cannot be transported into Vermont State Parks or State Forests.

Procedure for Implementation:

Visitors who arrive at a Vermont State Park with firewood from outside Vermont will be asked to exchange their firewood for an equal amount of park-supplied firewood. Campers are allowed to bring firewood into the park only if it was obtained within Vermont. Wood brought from outside Vermont must be packaged, labeled as having been heat treated, and certified by USDA or the appropriate state department of agriculture.

Michael C. Snyder, Commissioner

Effective Date: November 4, 2013