



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

TO: Iowa Businesses Selling Firewood after January 1, 2011

FROM: Robin D. Pruisner, State Entomologist

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "ROBIN D. PRUISNER".

DATE: November 29, 2010

Movement of firewood is the number one means of transport for the emerald ash borer (EAB) and several other damaging plant pests. As a result of EAB infestations in Iowa and around the country, a new Administrative Rule requires specific labeling on firewood sold in Iowa.

Effective January 1, 2011, all packaged firewood offered for sale, sold or distributed in Iowa must include the harvest location of the wood by county and state. The labeling requirement also applies to bulk firewood, requiring the harvest location to be included on the delivery ticket. This rule applies to any length of tree that has been cut and intended for burning.

It is important to note that firewood originating from areas quarantined for EAB must be produced under the supervision of USDA and state department of agriculture compliance agreements. http://emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf provides the current map of EAB quarantine areas. A seal, with the specific individual compliance agreement identification number, must also be present on the label. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) receives reports of firewood of suspicious origin, and we work through the complaints in cooperation with the USDA, sometimes issuing stop sale orders and occasionally returning the firewood to its place of origin. We will continue to utilize stop sale orders as firewood is found lacking the appropriate origin labeling.

EAB is a significant threat to the millions of ash trees that line Iowa's streets, provide shade for our homes, and flourish in our woodlands. While eradication of this insect is not possible, we do hope to slow its spread, allowing private landowners and communities time to prepare and respond to dead and dying trees.

Other damaging plant pests may also hitchhike on firewood, such as the gypsy moth, Asian longhorn beetle, thousand canker of walnut, Sirex woodwasp and mountain pine beetle - - to name a few.

Finally, the IDALS Weights and Measure Bureau have rules for the labeling and measurement of firewood sold in Iowa. Enclosed is a factsheet describing those rules and requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.



Buying & Selling Firewood in Iowa ... Don't Get Burned!

Emerald ash borer was found in Iowa May 2010. The discovery of this invasive species is an excellent reminder to all Iowans about pests that move with firewood, as well as the basic requirements of how firewood is to be labeled for sale in Iowa.

Why is NOT moving firewood important?

Firewood can transport many invasive insect pests such as the emerald ash borer, Sirex wood wasp, Asian longhorned beetle, and gypsy moth, as well as plant pathogens causing beech bark disease, sudden oak death, thousand canker of walnut, and oak wilt. Several states in our country are engaged in control measures aimed at these destructive forest pests. The movement of infested firewood has proven to be the source of many infestations throughout the United States. In Iowa, our motto is *Buy Local & Burn Local!*

How can I tell if firewood from a quarantined area in another state is pest-free?

USDA can only certify material if it is coming from a quarantined area. The USDA-certified material will have a federal shield on the label, to show that the firewood has been processed or treated according to federal regulations, so that pest risks are mitigated before crossing quarantined boundaries. The federal firewood shield indicates that the 'regulated article' has been certified by USDA as having been processed and transported properly under domestic quarantine requirements.



New state requirement - labeling of all firewood sold in Iowa, to include the harvest location.

Starting January 1, 2011, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will require all firewood sold in Iowa to have the county and state of harvest location on the label of packages and the delivery ticket for bulk firewood.

Iowa firewood labeling requirements.

Packaged firewood offered, exposed, advertised or held for sale must bear a clear and conspicuous declaration of:

- Identity of the commodity (e.g., 'firewood');
 - A declaration of identity may indicate species group (e.g., 50% ash, 50% oak);
- Net quantity in terms of cubic feet or cubic meters, including fractions. A cord is also acceptable, as it is 128 cubic feet, ranked and well stowed;
- Name and address of manufacturer, packer or distributor if the packages were not produced on the premises where they are offered, exposed or held for sale;
- Unit price (*or it must be posted at the point of sale*); and
- Harvest location of the wood by county and state [starting January 1, 2011].

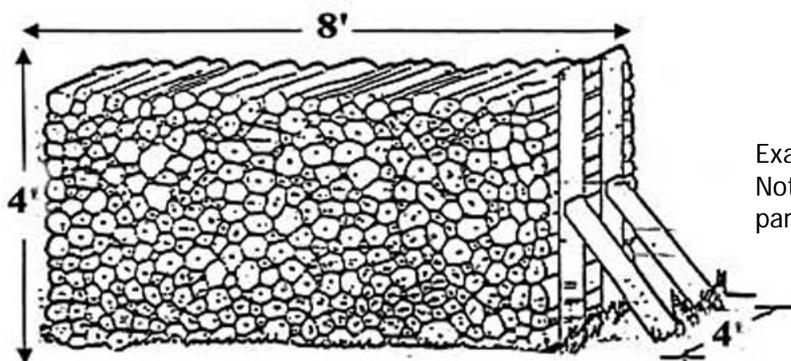
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Bulk firewood offered, exposed, advertised or held for sale, must be accompanied by a delivery ticket containing the following information:

- Identity of the commodity (e.g. 'firewood');
 - A declaration of identity may indicate species group (e.g., 50% ash, 50% oak);
- Net quantity delivered in terms of cubic feet or cubic meters, including fractions. A cord is also acceptable, as it is 128 cubic feet, stacked and well stowed;
- Name and address of manufacturer, packer or distributor who measured and distributed the firewood;
- Date delivered;
- Unit price; and
- Harvest location of the wood by county and state [starting January 1, 2011].

Definitions.

- Cord – The amount of wood that is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet when the wood is stacked and well stowed. Stacked and well stowed means that pieces of wood are placed in a line or row, with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other, and stacked in a compact manner.
 - To be sure you have a cord or advertised amount, you can stack and measure the wood. For example, a cord of firewood, when stacked, could be a pile that is either:
 - 4 feet wide, 4 feet high, and 8 feet long ($4 \times 4 \times 8 = 128$); or
 - 2 feet wide, 4 feet high and 16 feet long ($2 \times 4 \times 16 = 128$);
 - 1.5 feet wide, 4 feet high and 21.3 feet long ($1.5 \times 4 \times 21.3 = 128$)



Example of a cord of firewood.
Note how the wood is stacked parallel & in a compact manner.

- Firewood – any kindling, log, board, timbers, or other wood, natural or processed, split or not split, advertised, offered for sale, or sold for use for fuel.

Prohibited terms.

The terms "face cord," "rack," "pile," "truckload," or similar terms shall not be used when advertising, offering for sale, or selling firewood.

Questions?

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