

# Emerald Ash Borer

how we're preparing, how you can help



## What is it?

The emerald ash borer is a non-native, small green wood-boring insect that attacks and kills ash trees. The adults live on the outside of ash trees feeding on the leaves during the summer months.

The larvae look similar to white grubs and feed on the living plant tissue underneath the bark of ash trees. The trees are killed by the tunneling activity of the larvae under the tree's bark, which disrupts the flow of water and nutrients.



## How does it affect all of us?

This invasive insect was first detected in the United States in 2002. It has rapidly spread west, and has now been found in various counties within Iowa. One of the main causes of this spread is the transportation of firewood. By enforcing regulations, Polk County Conservation and others are hoping to slow its detrimental spread.

We want to save our local ash trees for as long as possible for the enjoyment of park users and the success of wildlife who rely on ash trees for their habitat.



## What can you do to help?

The most important thing you can do is to use **only** firewood that meets this criteria:

- Firewood processed and sold by Polk County Conservation with appropriate label (Fig. 1)
- Untreated dimensional lumber (such as scrap 2" x 4")
- Locally harvested firewood with proper Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship label (Fig. 2)
- Firewood with proper USDA - APHIS label (Fig. 3)

For your convenience, we have created a label (Fig. 2) that meets Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship requirements. This is downloadable from our website, and may be applied to **firewood harvested from counties not infected or under quarantine**.

Rangers enforce this policy at each of our campgrounds and satellite locations. Please call (515) 323-5300 with any questions.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

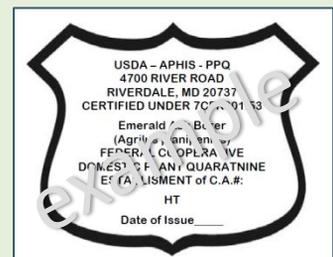


Fig. 3