

Information Bulletin #65
Effective April 1, 2011**SUBJECT:** Firewood Management on DNR Properties**I. Purpose**

This information bulletin establishes a policy for the movement and management of firewood on a "DNR property" as defined at [312 IAC 8-1-4](#).

Part of the mission of the Indiana department of natural resources is to manage, protect, and wisely use natural resources for the benefit of our citizens. Firewood serves as a potential vector for a "pest or pathogen", as defined at [IC 14-8-2-203](#), that may threaten the health of forest resources. The most well-known of these is the emerald ash borer (EAB), which has killed more than 25 million ash trees in the Upper Midwest and is present in 35 Indiana counties. EAB is killing ash in the urban forests and on 27,000 acres of rural forest. In addition to EAB, the gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, thousand canker disease of black walnut, and many others are immediate threats to the forest resources and can be spread through the movement of firewood.

The purpose of this information bulletin is to help slow the movement of existing pests or pathogens on DNR properties and to prevent, as much as possible, the introduction of new pests or pathogens that may result in damage to forest resources.

II. Background

Since 2007, divisions that administer DNR properties, particularly the division of state parks and reservoirs, have managed firewood through an internal policy in an effort to slow the movement of EAB. Firewood from quarantined states or counties with EAB has been prohibited from entering state parks, reservoirs, and state forests. Firewood with a federal or state compliance stamp was exempt, as was scrap, kiln-dried lumber and pine.

Administration of the internal policy was through firewood checks at property entrances or campground gates. Firewood not in compliance could be confiscated and, in some cases, replaced by the division managing the DNR property, and then burned quickly. The diverse activities handled at entrance and campground gates often made implementation of the internal policy difficult. Where no staffed gates existed, implementation was even less effective. No enforcement consequences, other than confiscation of firewood, supported the internal policy. The primary tools for implementation were publicity and education, and those have been successful in many cases. As the potential for invasive pests or pathogens increases, however, the development of this information bulletin provides better DNR coordination of firewood management.

III. Definitions

"Firewood" means kindling, logs, boards, lumber, timber, and any part of a tree that is in a form and size appropriate for use as fuel. Logs cut into lengths at least 4 1/2 feet long are not firewood.

"Kiln-dried construction lumber" means processed boards cut and dried to remove all bark.

IV. Applications**A. Policy**

A person should only bring firewood to a DNR property if it meets one of the following:

1. The firewood is bundled and contains a federal compliance stamp issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
2. The firewood is bundled and contains a state compliance stamp issued by the department's division of entomology and plant pathology to the firewood vendor from whom the wood was purchased.
3. The firewood is transported for sale or distribution in a DNR property by a state-certified concessionaire or by the department and has been inspected and certified by the department's division of entomology and plant pathology.
4. The firewood consists entirely of kiln-dried construction lumber.
5. The firewood consists of logs or any part of a tree with all bark removed that does not originate from an area where firewood has been identified as a potential carrier of a pest or pathogen in a quarantine issued by either of the following:
 - (i) the department under [IC 14-24-4](#), [312 IAC 18-2](#), or [312 IAC 18-3](#); or
 - (ii) APHIS under 7 U.S.C. 7714 or 7 U.S.C. 7715.

B. Implementation

1. Primary responsibility for understanding and complying with this information bulletin lies with visitors to DNR properties.
2. The DNR shall disseminate the information bulletin through media releases, social networking sites, e-blasts through the DNR and Indiana's central camping reservation system, banners at campgrounds, fliers and postcards at entrances and campground gates, and other available means.
3. Property staff may implement this information bulletin at entrances or campground gates or through campground, security, or host staff visits to sites, whichever is most effective for the property based on visitation, day use, and other appropriate factors.
4. The DNR shall perform spot checks at gates, in campgrounds, and at any other site within a DNR property as determined appropriate by a property manager or conservation officer. Particularly during the initial implementation of the information bulletin, spot checks should be performed regularly.
5. Options for handling campers who are not in compliance with the policy include:
 - a. Requests that the camper burn all wood at the site within 72 hours and follow the terms of the information bulletin in the future.
 - b. Providing basic information about the policy to the camper.
6. Any wood removed from campsites should be stored in an enclosed container and burned on the property within 72 hours.

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