



A Guide to Preparing an Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan

for

Indiana

cities and towns



Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry
Community & Urban Forestry Program
&
Purdue University

In cooperation with
The Emerald Ash Borer Task Force

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This tool was developed by the Indiana Emerald Ash Borer Task Force which is comprised of representatives who work in the urban forests of Indiana in various capacities.

EAB TASK FORCE

American Electric Power (AEP)
City of Carmel
City of Kokomo
Duke Energy
Hamilton County Park and Recreation Department
Indiana Arborist Association
Indiana DNR, Community & Urban Forestry (CUF)
Green Industry Alliance (GIA)
Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA)
Indiana Parks & Recreation Association (IPRA)
Indiana Urban Forest Council, Inc. (IUFC)
Indianapolis Power & Light (IPL)
Purdue University, Department of Entomology

Sub Committee for the Readiness and Response Plan

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I. Preparing to prepare

Communities need to be ready with a plan of action that will help address the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat to their urban forest resource.

- **It is very important that the EAB Readiness Team become familiar with quarantine procedures and compliance agreements and know who the state contact is regarding these procedures. (See Appendix for Quarantine and Compliance information).**

Assembling the EAB readiness team and laying the groundwork

- Identify an EAB readiness team for your community. The team should include someone from the following areas:
 - Mayor or Town Council President
 - Urban Forestry
 - Street
 - Parks
 - County Council
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Utility representative
 - City or town Public Relations Coordinator
 - Soil and Water Conservation District and Extension
 - Local businesses that may be affected such as nurseries, tree care businesses etc.
- Assign one person on the team to be the EAB urban forestry manager, point person, or liaison. This team member should have urban forestry training, a background in natural resources management, or be a Certified Arborist (see Appendix). This person will work closely with the Public Relations Coordinator if applicable.
- The team will familiarize itself with the state protocols that will need to be followed if an EAB infestation is determined to be in your community (see Appendix *Advice to City Forestry Managers*).
- If an infestation is confirmed in the area, the team will receive information and a list of talking points from the Exotic Insect Education Coordinator, Department of Entomology, Purdue University (see Appendix Contacts).

Funding issues

- A town with dead and dying trees does not look economically promising to potential new businesses and residents. Determine corporate and private partners who may be willing to fund removal of infested ash trees and their replacement on public and private property.
- Explore grant opportunities for replanting (see Appendix for the Urban Forestry Conservation Fund (UFCF) grant program).

Inventory equipment and tree worker skill base in the municipality

- Determine what funds are available for removals and replanting on public property.
- Determine which department in the community is responsible for tree felling and removal. Identify which employees have had chain saw and tree felling training. Training videos are available from a variety of sources (see Appendix).
- Develop a list of equipment and vehicles in the city that will be available for tree removals and clean up: include wood chippers, bucket trucks, refuse packers, loaders, supervisory vehicles, chain saws, barricades, handsaws, and pole pruners. Communities with ordinances that restrict or forbid open burning may be eligible for large equipment grants from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (See Appendix).

Work with your utility company

- Contact the appropriate utility provider regarding ash tree/utility conflicts in the area. You may want to discuss a partnership regarding ash tree removal and replacement in these areas (See Appendix for utility contacts).

II. Natural Resource Management

A resource cannot be managed unless we know what it is, where it is, and its condition. This is especially true of the urban forest. This may be an excellent time to implement a complete public tree inventory. Communities interested in doing complete inventories may be eligible for grant funds from the Community and Urban Forestry program. If you do not have the time or finances to do a complete inventory, at least inventory the ash trees.

Identify and count your ash trees

- Determine the extent of your Ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp) by doing a simple count or inventory. First, check to see if there is a current inventory on file. If not, then prepare to inventory the ash trees in all public, park, cemetery, and private property areas (Appendix, see Ash Tree Identification).
- Explore grant opportunities to apply for funds to do tree inventories (see Appendix UFCF grant program).
- Assess the health and condition of all ash trees on public property during the inventory. During this inventory, always be on the alert for EAB signs and symptoms (See Appendix, How to do a Tree Inventory; Inventory Tally Sheet).
- Identify ash trees that have historical significance, assess their health, and determine if treating the tree or trees is feasible. (See Appendix for treatment information).
- Inform the Mayor and other elected officials of the potential losses of ash trees in the community and how that loss will affect the environmental health and public safety of the community.
- Remove any dying ash trees that are in severe decline regardless of the cause before EAB arrives.
- Replace any removed ash trees with trees that are an appropriate size and species for that space. (Appendix, Alternative Tree Selections for large trees).
- Replace ash with a diversity of tree species and cultivars that are not already too abundant in the community.
- The Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry does not recommend planting ash tree species in Indiana at this time.
- Encourage property owners who have healthy ash trees to begin planting and mixing in trees from the Ash Tree Alternative list on their property. This will ensure that when their ash trees die, there will already be a new tree growing in the area.

III. Debris Management and Utilization Opportunities

When EAB enters your community, ash trees will die and need to be removed. The amount of wood left from ash trees that have been cut down could resemble wood debris left after a storm.

Managing ash tree debris

- Become familiar with state quarantine procedures and compliance agreements before EAB arrives so that you can act as a resource to residents. Know whom to contact for any questions you may have regarding these issues (See Appendix for Quarantine and Compliance information).
- Before EAB arrives, designate a disposal site or sites within the community or county for any ash wood debris. This could be a landfill, solid waste area, or industrial site where the debris could be buried or chipped. If burning is an option in your area, a burn permit from Indiana Department of Environmental Management is required and must be obtained in advance.
- Identify and contact operators and owners of portable saw mills in the area. With the bark and slabs removed and destroyed from the log, the resulting saw logs could be milled into lumber. The lumber could be used for park projects, community kiosks, benches etc. Private property owners could join and hire a portable sawmill owner to mill their logs on site.
- Identify tree care companies and landscape businesses that offer tree removal and chipping services. For the ash wood chips to become exempt from quarantine, they must be processed to smaller than 1x1 inch in 2 dimensions. EAB larvae cannot survive in small wood chips as they quickly desiccate.
- Determine a mulch/compost site for the ash wood chips that will be processed to smaller than 1x1 inch in 2 dimensions. Offer the mulch to residents and parks in the area.

IV. Education and Awareness

It is imperative to generate awareness about EAB before the insect is found. An informed public is much more cooperative than one who has not been adequately prepared.

Before EAB is found in the community

- Encourage local media to feature articles and interviews about EAB and how other communities are dealing with related issues.
- Let the community know that an EAB Readiness team is in place and working on a specific plan of action. Keep the residents informed of progress and the needs of the municipality to address this issue.
- Invite experts to speak on EAB at appropriate community events such as Arbor Day programs, meetings of Master Gardeners, Garden Clubs, Tree Boards, and other civic groups.

- Obtain EAB flyers, leaflets, and education handouts from the CUF office or the Exotic Insects Education Coordinator at Purdue University. Place EAB information in the libraries, park centers, community centers, government centers, and other public gathering places.
- Link the EAB website (<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>) to your city's web page.

After EAB is officially identified

- The official announcement that EAB has been identified in your community will come from the IDNR, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology. After the official announcement has been made, you may release information to the community through the Community EAB liaison.
- The Office of the Mayor or equivalent can release a statement for local media explaining what tools and resources the community has in place to help its residents, what the Plan of Action is, and what the official recommendations are for businesses and private property owners.
- Contact the CUF office and/or the Exotic Insects Education Coordinator at Purdue University to conduct an Informational Meeting for the public that covers EAB, Ash tree identification, and replacement plantings (see Appendix for list of contacts).
- Let residents know that they can go to their county extension to get help in identifying their tree and take a suspect EAB insect in for positive identification. (see Appendix of Cooperative Extension contact numbers)
- Activate the ash wood debris marshalling yards.
- Inform citizens of services available to help with tree removals, woody debris management, and tree replacement via news media outlets and community websites.
- Encourage ash wood utilization using portable sawmills. When milling ash wood, sawyers need to be reminded to dispose of the bark debris as determined in their Compliance Agreement. Typically, ash logs from quarantined areas need to be edged $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deeper than normal. The squared off log needs to be bark free with no insect pockets (Appendix, ash utilization tips).
- Contact the Indiana DNR, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology for a list of vendors who have Compliance Agreements with the IDNR for handling ash debris. Inform media where the public can take their ash wood debris and any quarantine rules concerning who can remove and transport debris etc.

Appendix

Resource Tools

Alternative Tree Selections

- Alternatives to Ash; <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/>; look under publications, Community & Urban Forestry or call the C&UF office for a copy.

Arborist and Tree Care

- Why and How to Hire a Certified Arborist
http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/hire_arborist.aspx
- Find a Certified Arborist in your Area;
<http://www.treesaregood.com/findarborist/arborist.aspx>

Ash Tree Identification

- <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/E2942.pdf>
- *101 Trees of Indiana, a Field Guide*; Marion Jackson; University Press.
- *Trees of Indiana Their Identification and their Uses*; CD-FNR-1, Purdue University

Chain saw and tree felling training

- Chain Saw Safety video available from Stihl; \$4.99;
<https://www.stihlusa.com/ordervideo/>
- Chain Saw Safety Training, Maintenance, and Operation from Forestry Industry Safety and Training Alliance; \$30.00
<http://www.fistausa.org/videos.html>
- Sensible Wood Cutting; Tips from the Pros; free loan
<http://wood-land-lakes.org/adobe/available%20videos.pdf>

Grants

Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry, C&UF Program EAB Restoration and **tree planting** grants; Federally funded grant programs that will fund tree planting before EAB and after removals. Trees can only be planted on public property. Contact: 317-915-9390; urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov

Indiana Department of Environmental Management; **Recycling** grants to establish programs for recycling, composting, curbside pick up etc. may result in grant dollars for large equipment such as chippers and bucket trucks.

http://www.in.gov/idem/resources/grants_loans/index.html

How to do a tree inventory

- How to do a Street Tree Inventory; National Arbor Day Foundation; Available free from the Community & Urban Forestry (C&UF) office; urbanforestry@dnr.in.gov; or 317-915-9390
- Inventory tally sheet free from the C&UF office

Quarantine and Compliance

- Title 312, Natural Resources Commission; Permanent Rule regarding Emerald Ash Borer http://www.in.gov/nrc/nrc/05-317_E.pdf
- Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology; <http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/pestinfo/ashborer.htm>

Treatment Information

- Emerald Ash Borer; <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/treatment.cfm>
- Prevention and Treatment of EAB; Dept. of Entomology, Purdue University <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/prevention.htm>

Utilization

- *My Ash Tree is Dead, Now what do I do?* A factsheet from Michigan; http://semircd.org/ash/education/msue_myash.pdf
- *Utilizing Municipal Trees, Ideas from Across the Nation*; <http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/misc/umt/index.htm>

Contacts

IDNR, Division of Forestry, Community & Urban Forestry (CUF) office; 317-915-9391; urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov

IDNR, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology; 317-232-4120; <http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/>

Indiana Arborist Association; 765-494-3625; mckenzie@purdue.edu

Indiana Nursery Landscape Association; 800-443-7336, dsheets@inla1.org

Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts; 317-692-7325

<http://www.iaswcd.org/AboutUs.htm>

Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts; 800-443-7336

<http://www.in.gov/recycle/topics/swmd/contact.html>

Purdue University, Cooperative Extensive Service; 888-398-4636

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/counties.htm>

Purdue University, Department of Entomology, Exotic Insect Education
Coordinator; 765-494-0822; ellisj@purdue.edu

Utility Contacts

American Electric Power (AEP); Mike Maskal, 260-421-1588

Duke Energy; Tom Ordway, 317-776-5354

Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL); Michael Baldwin, 317-261-8124

Northern Indiana Public Service Co (NIPSCO); Jason Lietz, 574-284-2120

Vectren; Gary Creasey, 812-491-4000

Indiana Municipal Power Association-Member Communities;

<http://www.impa.com/impamemcom.asp>

Rural Electric - Rural Electric Membership Corporation-contact local one in area
for rural cooperatives.

Websites

City of Carmel, information sheet;

<http://www.ci.carmel.in.us/services/DOCS/DOCSUF.htm>

Emerald Ash Borer Information-Department of Entomology, Purdue University;

<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/>

<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/info.htm>

EAB website from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

Indiana Arborist Association; <http://www.indiana-arborist.org/>

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology; <http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/pestinfo/ashborer.htm>

Indiana Urban Forest Council, Inc.; <http://www.iufc.org>

Trees are Good; Consumer Tree Website; International Society of Arboriculture
<http://www.treesaregood.com/>

National Arbor Day Foundation: <http://www.arborday.org>

Northern Tree ID Selector; <http://orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html>

USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Northeastern Area;
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/>

USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, Urban and Community Forestry;
<http://na.fs.fed.us/urban/index.shtm>