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Restrictions on Ash Trees/Wood and All Hardwood Firewood **Prince George's and Charles Counties**

**** If you are cutting down trees, clearing land, selling firewood or undertaking any other activity that potentially involves the movement of ash trees or any hardwood firewood in Prince George's and/or Charles counties....Please Continue Reading.**



**Emerald
Ash
Borer**

The emerald ash borer is an exotic insect pest that has caused the loss of millions of ash trees in the midwestern United States and Canada since its undetected introduction into the Detroit Michigan and Windsor Ontario area sometime in the 1990's. It arrived in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 2003 on an illegal shipment of ash nursery stock from a quarantined area of Michigan. In Maryland, it has been contained to limited areas within Prince George's and Charles counties.

In order to prevent the spread of this insect to other areas in Maryland or to other states, there are state and federal quarantines in place that ban the movement of any ash wood and any hardwood firewood out of Prince George's and Charles counties. The following are details about the situation.

- The **Quarantine Area** refers to **all of Prince George's and Charles counties** in Maryland.
- The **Infested Area** (area where the Emerald Ash Borer is present or believed to be likely to be present) refers to:
 - The area of Prince George's County, Maryland south of I-495 from the Potomac River to Pennsylvania Avenue, and south of Pennsylvania Avenue from I-495 to the Patuxent River and
 - The area of Charles County north of MD Rt. 6 between St. Mary's County at New Market and southbound MD Rt. 301, and north of MD Rt. 225 between southbound MD Rt. 301 and MD Rt. 210 and north of MD Rt. 210 between MD Rt. 225 and the US Navy Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head.
- A person may not move any of the following items from the Quarantine Area to any destination outside the Quarantine Area, or from the Infested Area to any destination outside the Infested Area:
 - The emerald ash borer insect;
 - **Firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species;**
 - Any piece of an ash tree, living or dead; and,
 - Uncomposted ash chips and uncomposted ash bark chips larger than 1 inch in diameter in two dimensions.

(over)

- A person may move regulated articles originating outside the Quarantine Area through the Quarantine Area only under certain conditions as follows:
 - The regulated articles are moved without stopping, except to refuel or for traffic conditions, and
 - For the period between April 1 and August 31, the articles are shipped in an enclosed vehicle, or are completely covered to prevent access by the emerald ash borer.
- Regulated Articles originating outside the Quarantine Area which are moved into the Quarantine Area will then be considered to have originated from the Quarantine Area and treated accordingly.
- Regulated Articles originating outside an Infested Area which are moved into the Infested Area will be considered to have originated from the Infested Area and treated accordingly.
- Regulated articles may not be moved except as directed by the Secretary in any area designated by the Secretary for treatment and tree removal to eradicate the emerald ash borer, the **Eradication Zone** (currently a ~25 square mile area in the Clinton/Brandywine area)
- A person who violates this Quarantine Order is subject to criminal or civil penalties as provided under Agriculture Article, §§ 5-313 and 5-314, Annotated Code of Maryland:
 - Up to \$500 per violation (any piece of a regulated article) and 3 months in jail for the first offense
 - Up to \$1000 per violation (any piece of a regulated article) and one year in jail for the second and subsequent offenses

For more information:

Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5920,

www.mda.state.md.us/go/eab

www.stopthebeetle.info

www.emeraldashborer.info



**Emerald
Ash
Borer**