

## Talking Points – EAB Quarantine Revision

January 7, 2014

- **The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) revised its Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine to designate all portions of the six quarantined counties in the eastern Upper Peninsula, and all portions of the quarantined counties of Houghton and Keweenaw, as the same quarantine levels (Level II).**
- **The quarantine revisions are being made at this time because:**
  - EAB has a strong ability to spread naturally and has few well established natural enemies, so EAB populations are likely to have grown and spread from previous Level II quarantine areas.
  - The six quarantined counties in the eastern Upper Peninsula, and the quarantined counties of Houghton and Keweenaw, have not been significantly surveyed since 2009 due to budget constraints.
- **No new counties** were quarantined by this revision.
- **Prior to this revision**, MDARD's EAB interior quarantine divided the quarantined counties of the Upper Peninsula into two quarantine levels: the portions of Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Houghton, Keweenaw, Mackinac and Schoolcraft counties known to contain EAB infestations were designated as Quarantine Level II areas. The balance of those seven counties, plus Luce County, were designated as Quarantine Level III areas. This revision effectively merges the two quarantine levels and designates all of the quarantined counties in the Upper Peninsula as Quarantine Level II areas.
- **Non-Quarantined Area-** The Upper Peninsula counties of Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Iron, Marquette, Menominee, and Ontonagon.
- **Quarantine Level I Area**– All 68 contiguous counties of the Lower Peninsula.
- **Quarantine Level II Areas** – The Upper Peninsula counties of Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Houghton, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft.
- **Movement** –
  - The movement of hardwood firewood and other regulated articles from the Lower Peninsula into the Upper Peninsula is prohibited unless done so under the stipulations of a valid MDARD Compliance Agreement.

- The movement of regulated articles originating from a Quarantine Level II area is prohibited out of the Level II area without a valid MDARD Compliance Agreement except regulated articles may move from the Quarantine Level II area in the eastern Upper Peninsula into Quarantine Level I of the Lower Peninsula without a Compliance Agreement.
  - The prohibition on moving hardwood firewood, and the other articles regulated by the quarantine from anywhere in Michigan to the Beaver Island Archipelago, Big and Little Charity islands, North and South Manitou islands and Isle Royale is still in place.
  - Compliance Agreement Treatments – Compliance Agreements are typically utilized by those in the forest products industry who can meet approved treatment methods. Approved treatment methods currently include removing 100% of bark and an additional ½ inch of wood or kiln drying or heat treating according to approved treatment schedules.
  - Nursery Stock Moratorium – The sale and/or movement of all ash nursery stock within, out of, or into Michigan is prohibited under all conditions. The movement of hardwood firewood and other regulated articles out of the State of Michigan must be done according to Federal EAB regulations. Contact your local USDA office for more information.
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- Although travelers and residents are now able to freely move firewood within the eastern Upper Peninsula and within Houghton and Keweenaw counties, MDARD is urging them not to do so as other exotic and devastating insects and diseases such as Asian longhorned beetle, thousand cankers disease of black walnut, hemlock woolly adelgid, oak wilt and beech bark disease - can hitch a ride on it.
  - Travelers should continue to only use local sources of firewood, burn all they buy, and not take any unused firewood back home or to the next location.
  - The ban on moving firewood north across the Mackinac Bridge remains in effect and quarantine violators can still face fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and jail time of up to five years.
  - First discovered in 2002, EAB is responsible for the death or damage of approximately 50 million ash trees in Michigan and surrounding states.