

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**USDA Forest Service**  
**Minnesota**  
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**Forest Service Announces Increased Restrictions on Firewood**

The Superior and Chippewa National Forests are implementing new rules regarding the processing, transport and use of specific types of firewood on national forest lands within the boundaries of both Forests.

This announcement revises previous policy on both national forests and is part of a joint effort with other partners to address the introduction and dispersal of non-native invasive species (NNIS), including emerald ash borer (EAB), by firewood movement into Minnesota.

The new policy:

- Prohibits firewood from any state other than Minnesota, of any species, brought to national forest system lands. .
- Prohibits any firewood from a state-quarantined county as well as counties contiguous to quarantined counties.
- Prohibits any firewood purchased from a non-certified vendor. See the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources listing (on the DNR website) and keep a receipt of purchase that includes name of vendor, date, and quantity of wood purchased.
- The only exception: Non-ash firewood gathered within 100 miles of the Chippewa or Superior National Forest may be used.)

The most important way that campers can help is to use firewood sources local to where they camp and avoid transporting any firewood. Firewood is an easy ride for EAB and other unwanted pests. Unable to fly more than two miles on its own, the EAB can spread at “55 mph” when it hitches a ride with campers.

EAB is of particular concern in Minnesota because the State contains the second largest concentration of ash trees in the nation. The EAB is an exotic, non-native species which has no natural predators in this country.

For the past several years, EAB has been making a slow and deadly migration throughout the Midwest and has already destroyed millions of ash trees. Most recently, EAB was discovered in southeastern Minnesota. Currently, a Minnesota State-issued quarantine prohibits movement of wood products out of Hennipin, Ramsey and Houston Counties.

Additional information is available at the following web sites or by phone:

Minnesota information about EAB, regulations, and firewood vendors: [www.saveourash.net](http://www.saveourash.net)

How to become an approved vendor:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/firewood/vendorapplication.pdf>

Chippewa National Forest website: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa)

Superior National Forest website: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior)

Minnesota Department of Agriculture HOTLINE: 651-201-6684(metro area)

1-888-545-6684(greater Minnesota)

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