

A Summary of Firewood Regulations

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In March of 2009, a firewood regulation was enacted in an effort to protect New York State's forests and community trees from invasive forest pests. The regulation prohibits the import of untreated firewood into NY and limits the transport of untreated firewood within NY to 50 miles from its source. Recent interactions with the public have indicated that many people are aware that the regulation exists, but don't understand why it was created or how to comply. The following are some of most commonly misunderstood aspects:

- Firewood is not the only way humans inadvertently move forest pests from one area to another, but it is widely considered to be one of the most common. Firewood is often moved long distances, stored for long periods of time, and handled by those generally not trained to recognize signs of invasive pest infestations.
- The emerald ash borer is not the only reason for the creation of the regulation, but one in a long line of invasive species that have plagued our nation's forests over the years. The regulation was intended to prevent or slow the spread of all invasive species that can move via firewood including those not yet threatening our borders.
- All species of trees used for firewood are covered under the regulation because nearly every native tree species in NY is susceptible to attack by one or more invasive pests.
- The 50 miles within which firewood can be transported is a linear distance. To get an accurate measure of that distance, one should use the scale-bar on a NYS road map, atlas or gazetteer, and not the odometer of a vehicle.

To comply with the regulation, anyone transporting untreated firewood must fill out a certificate or obtain a receipt or label stating the NY source of the firewood and travel no more than 50 miles from that source. The "source" is the Town, Village or City that the firewood producer declares as the source of the firewood, which must be located within 50 miles of where the processed trees were grown. A self issued certificate of source form is available on the web at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/28722.html, for those who cut and transport firewood for their own personal use.

There is no official form for firewood producers who sell their wood, but a receipt or label stating the name of the firewood producer, their legal address and the source of the firewood, must accompany each sale. If the producer and seller of the firewood are not one in the same, the seller must obtain source information from the producer and pass it on to the customer. An example of source might be; *Producer's name and address*: NY Firewood, 123 Firewood Lane, City NY; *Firewood Source*: "This wood was harvested within 50 miles of being processed in City, NY". The purchaser can then transport the firewood within 50 miles of City, NY.

Firewood that has been heat treated to kill pests is not subject to the regulation and may be transported into NY and throughout without restriction. Any firewood that is marketed as heat treated must meet NY's heat treatment requirements of raising its core temperature to 71°C (160°F) for a minimum of 75 minutes, and labeled accordingly.

By limiting the movement of firewood, a high risk forest pest host, we are taking a direct step towards protecting our forest resources and ecosystems from the negative impacts of invasive species. *For more information please visit www.dec.ny.gov, search word: "Firewood" or call 1-866-640-0652*