

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-30
July 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Fairfax County, Virginia

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), in Fairfax County, Virginia, on July 9, 2008. This EAB detection is in close proximity to Dulles International Airport. The initial detection was made on July 7, 2008, by an employee from the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDF), who noticed several suspect EAB exit holes. The VDF informed the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) who, in turn, notified APHIS of the suspect EAB find.

On July 8, 2008, APHIS and VDACS personnel visited the suspect EAB site in Fairfax, Virginia. One partially emerged adult and two dead adult beetles were recovered and sent to an APHIS Identifier in Michigan, who confirmed their identity as EAB. In response to this detection, APHIS is working closely with the State of Virginia to carry out delimiting surveys around the initial detection site. Further, it is necessary for APHIS to quarantine this infested area in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Fairfax County must be done in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Fairfax County is regulated, including firewood of all hardwoods species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species. The Federal Order allows Virginia 30 days from July 11, 2008, to place an equivalent parallel quarantine in place for EAB, otherwise it will be necessary to quarantine the entire State as an EAB quarantine area.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States. Currently, the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are quarantined for EAB, together with portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and Prince George's County in Maryland. Four counties in western Pennsylvania are also under quarantine and EAB was detected last year in one county in West Virginia. EAB is an invasive wood boring beetle that is native to China and eastern Asia. EAB probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer and other goods. It was first detected in the United States in southeastern Michigan. Since then, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees in the United States. The interstate movement of firewood from quarantined areas is an especially high risk pathway for spreading EAB, and APHIS is working with State cooperators and foresters to raise awareness about this threat among the public.

For more information about the EAB program and Federal EAB regulations, you may contact Paul Chaloux, Acting EAB National Program Manager, at (301) 734-0917.

/s/ Rebecca A. Bech

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Domestic Quarantine of Fairfax County in Virginia for Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)

This Federal Order is issued under the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.53.

This Federal Order quarantines, effective immediately, Fairfax County, Virginia for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Fairfax County must be done in accordance with the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.53 et seq. This action is in response to a confirmed detection of EAB in Fairfax County. The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined that it is necessary to quarantine this area in order to prevent the spread of EAB.

7 CFR 301.53-3(a) allows the designation of less than an entire State as a EAB quarantined area only when the Administrator of APHIS has determined, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire State as a quarantined EAB area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, 7 CFR 301.53-3(a) requires that the State enforces an intrastate EAB quarantine that are equivalent to the Federal EAB regulations. Accordingly, the State of Virginia must confirm prior to August 11, 2008, the establishment of an intrastate quarantine for Fairfax County, Virginia that parallels the Federal requirements stipulated in 7CFR 301.53; otherwise, as of that date, it will be necessary to quarantine the entire State as an EAB quarantined area, in order to prevent the interstate spread of the plant pest. The confirmation should be made in writing to the APHIS State Plant Health Director.

7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) provides for the temporary designation of new quarantined areas pending publication of a rule to add counties to the list shown in 7 CFR 301.53-3(c). 7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) further requires written notification be given to the owner or person in possession of a newly quarantined area. This is the responsibility of the Federal and/or State regulatory personnel responsible for the EAB program in the affected State.

If you wish more details on the Federal EAB regulatory program, you may contact the EAB National Program Coordinator, Paul Chaloux, at Area Code (301) 734-0917. For information on regulatory requirements for movement of articles out of Virginia, please contact the APHIS State Plant Health Director, Bernetta Barco.

We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with the State of Virginia in our effort to prevent the spread of EAB.