

Update on the Rule about Importing Untreated Firewood into Vermont

Vermont's firewood rule went into effect on May 1, 2016. The following are basic elements of this rule:

- Firewood is defined as wood processed for burning and less than 48 inches in length. Firewood does not include wood chips, pellets, pulpwood, or wood for manufacturing purposes.
- Untreated firewood cannot be brought into Vermont.
- Treated firewood must be treated to the highest USDA standard (160° F/71.1° C for at least 75 minutes), which kills Asian longhorned beetle among other pests.
- Treated firewood must be accompanied by certification of treatment, such as a phytosanitary certificate, invoice, bill of lading, or label stating that the firewood has been heat treated to the 160° F/75 minute standard.
- By written request, FPR can grant a waiver allowing untreated firewood to be moved into Vermont, but only if there is minimal threat to forest health, and not restricted by existing state or federal pest quarantines. Currently, waivers are being granted to import firewood from counties adjacent to Vermont, as long as the material complies with other quarantines, including EAB quarantine restrictions.
- Enforcement is through the Agency of Natural Resources' Enforcement Division. Firewood imported in violation of the rule may be confiscated or destroyed. Because this is a new rule, no major enforcement activities are planned for 2016. We are conducting outreach efforts and on-site inspections, targeting firewood vendors, campground owners, visitors, and residents who might import firewood so they are aware of the new rule. Outreach efforts are conducted in collaboration with the US Forest Service, USDA PPQ, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets, and UVM Extension.

More information, including the text of the rule and Frequently Asked Questions are available on our webpage: <http://fpr.vermont.gov/firewood>, or by contacting:

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