

IMPORTATION OF FIREWOOD

Philosophy:

With increasing global trade, our forests are getting more pressure from harmful insects and diseases inadvertently brought to North America. Importing firewood from outside Vermont increases the risk of introducing non-native pests. A pest that spreads slowly on its own can be moved hundreds of miles in a single day by unsuspecting people bringing firewood into Vermont State Parks and Forests. Insects and diseases can be in, on, or under the bark of firewood, or deep within the wood; they are often hidden, or too small to see. Managing the importation of firewood can prevent the long-distance movement of wood-borne invasive forest pests into Vermont.

Asian longhorned beetle is one of the most worrisome invasive forest pests threatening Vermont with the potential to infest nearly half of Vermont's trees, especially sugar maple. Many other forest insects and diseases that are not known to be established in Vermont could be imported with firewood. Some that have infested trees in nearby states include oak wilt, European larch canker, brown spruce longhorned beetle, spotted lanternfly, and winter moth.

Since 2016, Vermont has had a firewood quarantine established in the [Rule Governing the Importation of Untreated Firewood into the State of Vermont](#) (The Rule) that prohibits the movement of untreated firewood into Vermont.

Since 2018, with the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer in Vermont, a non-native forest pest, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has used [Slow the Spread](#) guidelines to help slow the movement of infested ash wood into areas of Vermont that are not currently infested.

Given the concern about importation of firewood and forest insects and diseases, the Department hereby establishes this Importation of Firewood Policy:

Policy:

It is the policy of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation that no firewood shall be transported into Vermont State Parks and Forests unless it complies with The Rule and the Slow the Spread recommendations.

Visitors to Vermont State Parks and State Forests will be required to follow the firewood quarantine set forth in The Rule and Slow the Spread recommendations.

Visitors will be informed that firewood shall not be brought into Vermont State Parks or State Forests unless the wood is packaged, labeled as having been heat treated, and certified by USDA or the appropriate state department of agriculture.

Procedure for Implementation:

Visitors who arrive at a Vermont State Park or State Forest with firewood will be asked to exchange all but the quantity of their firewood, that will be burned the first night of their stay for an equal amount of park-supplied firewood, unless the wood is packaged, labeled as having been heat treated, and certified by USDA or the appropriate state department of agriculture.

Michael C. Snyder, Commissioner

Effective Date: June 1, 2020