

Movement and Use of Firewood in Colorado

Colorado Dept. of Agriculture
 Division of Plant Industry
 Nursery Program
 700 Kipling Street
 Suite 4000
 Lakewood, CO 80215
 303-239-4140

Key References

1. Colorado Department of Agriculture – www.colorado.gov/ag
www.eabcolorado.com
2. Division of Plant Industry - Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (Exotic pest detection and survey)
Phytosanitary Program (Quarantine and Certification for plant product export)
www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi
3. Inspection and Consumer Services, Measurement Standards - (Regulates sale of firewood, Investigation of complaints involving misrepresentation or mislabeling of firewood.)
www.colorado.gov/ag/ics
4. Colorado State Forest Service, Forest Products Division - <http://csfs.colostate.edu/index.shtml>
5. Don't Move Firewood.org – www.dontmovefirewood.org
6. USDA Forest Service – www.na.fs.fed.us/firewood/
7. USDA APHIS - www.hungrypests.com

Description

To protect Colorado's urban and native trees from invasive and harmful pests, the Colorado Firewood Task Force is recommending that people use firewood from Colorado whenever possible, and to always ensure that any firewood is properly seasoned. This will help prevent transporting forest pests elsewhere. When camping, try to buy firewood near destination campgrounds.

Pests that can be moved on firewood:

Pest	Latin Name	Wood that may be infested/trees at risk	Present in CO?	
emerald ash borer	<i>Agrilus planipennis Fairmaire</i>	Ash	YES; in Boulder, CO	
Asian long-horned beetle	<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	Maple, box elder, elm, willow, linden	NO	
gypsy moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	300 different shrub and tree species	NO	
Sirex woodwasp	<i>Sirex noctilio Fabricius</i>	All native and introduced pine	NO	
Thousand Canker Disease	<i>Pityophthorus juglandis (insect) and Geosmithia morbida (fungus)</i>	Black Walnut	YES	
mountain pine beetle	<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>	All native and introduced pine	YES	

Basic practice guidelines

General Information and History

1. Movement of firewood provides a high risk pathway for exotic and invasive pests to move from one state to another.
2. Native pests may spread from infested to non-infested areas of the state or region on or in firewood.
3. When firewood is purchased in bulk, the appropriate method of sale is by the cord or fractional cord. One cord equals a stack of wood that is 4 feet wide by 4 feet high by 8 feet long. Bulk firewood sellers in Colorado must provide a receipt with their name and business address, price, amount and type of wood.
4. Bundled firewood is commonly seen at grocery, big box, and convenience stores. The correct method of sale for bundles is by the cubic foot. Bundles must be properly labeled with net volume, wood type, and responsible party contact information. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Inspection and Consumer Services Division inspectors verify compliance at local retail locations throughout Colorado.

General Information and History continued...

5. The National Firewood Task Force recommends that firewood labels also include production or harvest origin, treatment, and consumer alerts on how to report a pest. National Firewood Task Force recommendations are not enforced by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Precautions to Take**“BURN IT WHERE YOU BUY IT”. Do Not Bring Untreated Firewood from Home**

1. When camping, use local firewood rather than firewood from out-of-state. If using firewood from your home or if purchased from the campsite, ensure that it is properly treated (see below).
2. Firewood sellers or dealers that certify that at least 50 percent of their firewood is from public or private lands in Colorado can be found at <http://csfs.colostate.edu/cowood/cfp.html>
3. Colorado has tree pests that are unwanted elsewhere, including mountain pine beetle and thousand cankers disease. To protect native and urban tree resources everywhere, buy firewood near the destination campground or firewood that has been properly treated.

DON'T MOVE UNTREATED FIREWOOD**At minimum**

1. Only purchase bundled firewood that is properly labeled, or bulk firewood by the cord or fractional cord (with receipt provided).
2. Firewood labeling is enforced by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Measurements Standards Program. Investigation of complaints involving misrepresentation or mislabeling of firewood should be referred to 303-477-4220.

Treatment of firewood

1. Ensure that all bark and additional wood to a depth of at least ½ inch beneath the bark, is removed from each piece of firewood. In addition wood should be split and dried.
2. Ideally wood should be heat treated at 160 degrees Fahrenheit for 75 minutes, prior to movement.
3. If debarking or heat treatment is not an option, cut wood should be kept dry for 2 years prior to movement.

