

STATE OF VERMONT
ACTION PLAN

EMERALD ASH BORER
Agrilus planipennis

February 2018

Prepared by
Vermont Forest Pest Advisory Committee

PURPOSE

1. To quickly detect, identify, delineate, and manage any Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation found in Vermont.
2. To effectively communicate between state, local, and federal agencies.
3. To define clear roles and responsibilities related to each responsible Agency related to outreach, survey, quarantines, public notification and control activities.

DIRECTION

The VT Agency of Agriculture, Foods and Markets and the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation will be the lead agencies. Representatives from the following partner institutions can provide advice and expertise and will meet annually and as needed as the Forest Pest Advisory Committee (FPAC):

VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets (VAAFMM):

State Plant Regulatory Official

VT Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation (VTFPR):

Forest Health Program Manager

US Forest Service (USFS):

Forest Health Group Leader

USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA APHIS PPQ):

VT/NH State Plant Health Director

University of Vermont Extension (UVMExt):

Forest Pest Education Coordinator

Plant Diagnostic Clinic Director

AUTHORITIES

Vermont State Statutes:

Title 6: Agriculture

Title 10: Conservation and Development

Federal Regulations:

7 CFR 301.53 - Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

7 CFR 319.40 - Solid Wood Packing Material (APHIS)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

VAAFM and VTFPR will convene the FPAC as needed. The FPAC will be the predetermined body of experts to help facilitate the conduct of activities related to an EAB detection unless higher authority within VT State Government is assigned. The FPAC will convene as needed to ensure the following responsibilities are carried out:

VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets and VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation may

1. Receive official sample for initial identification
2. Contact APHIS regarding the official sample
3. Submit official sample to a national identifier according to APHIS PPQ protocol
4. Enact emergency quarantines, if necessary
5. Cooperate with federal partners to implement management actions with FPAC input
6. Cooperate on external communications
7. Request funding for emergency forest protection activities, if needed

In addition, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets may

1. Serve as the state plant regulatory official regarding national quarantine issues

In addition, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation may

1. Coordinate delineation survey
2. Request resources from Northeastern Fire Compact, if needed

The USDA APHIS PPQ may

1. Receive official sample for initial identification
2. Provide official identification of EAB
3. Coordinate with VAAFM and VTFPR in initial response
4. Implement quarantine at the federal level
5. Request and coordinate federal resources for response

The USDA Forest Service may

1. Assist other agencies as needed in the detection, delimiting and monitoring surveys
2. Coordinate activities as the lead agency if outbreak is on Federal Lands
3. Provide technical assistance as a control strategy is developed
4. Provide resources as appropriate and available for EAB management activities
5. Provide remote sensing capabilities as appropriate and available

The University of Vermont Extension may

1. Provide public information, as directed by FPAC.
2. Coordinate and maintain a website related to the EAB detection
3. Assist as needed in the detection and delineation surveys

IMPLEMENTATION

In the event of an EAB detection, verification and actions will follow in accordance to the following outline and flow chart.

1. Identification of official sample
 - a. Primary identification by VAAF, VTFPR or APHIS PPQ
 - b. Official confirmation through APHIS National Identifier.
 - c. Official notification to the SPHD and SPRO

2. Convene FPAC
 - a. Support lead agencies (based on landownership of positive find)
 - b. Make recommendations on regulatory actions
 - c. Make recommendations on delineation survey
 - d. Evaluate the need for Incident Command System (ICS)
 - e. Develop contact list and contact external cooperators
 - f. Develop press contact list and contact those organizations

3. Execute the delineation survey recommendations
 - a. Report results to FPAC and related partners
 - b. Assess risk of spread from initial infestation

4. Implement management actions
 - a. Develop and implement management recommendations
 - b. Review regulatory recommendations including quarantine
 - c. Communicate with external partners, the public, and the press
 - d. Pursue funding options and availability
 - e. Design internal quarantine
 - f. Provide a notice of proposed control measures, including location and approximate time, to be published in a local newspaper (Title 10, §2662)
 - g. Evaluate the need for additional survey, management, or outreach activities as needed