The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle from Asia that was first discovered in the United States in 2002.

Adult female beetles lay their eggs on the bark of ash trees. Larvae hatch from the eggs and burrow into the cambium layer underneath the bark to feed. When there are many larvae in one tree, the tunnels they create while feeding eventually cut off the tree’s plumbing. This kills the tree. Most untreated ash trees die less than three years after the first larvae hatch-es.

EAB has been found in 18 states and two Canadian provinces. The insect has killed more than 50 million trees, and threatens the more than 7 billion remaining ash trees in North America.

This special issue of The Logger explains EAB identification, control options, and quarantine rules.

There are many bugs and diseases that can kill an ash tree, but EAB is the only one that is able to wipe out entire stands of healthy ash trees in the span of just a few years.

It is important to know how to identify EAB to make accurate reports and avoid false alarms.

Emerald Ash Borer adults are dark metallic green, one-half-inch in length and one-sixteenth of an inch wide.

They are present only from mid-May until early August. Larvae are creamy white in color and are found under the bark.

Affected trees show symptoms of infestation including: die-back on the upper third of the tree, 1/8 inch D-shaped exit holes in the bark where adults emerge, vertical splits in the bark, and distinct S-shaped tunnels beneath the bark in the cambium, where larvae effectively stop food and water movement in the tree, starving it to death. It takes 1-3 years for the infested tree to die.

Increased woodpecker activity is another symptom of an EAB infestation.

Report any suspected EAB sightings to the University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center: 800-342-2507 or hgic.umd.edu.

Download the app! Free iPhone or Android app for IDing and reporting invasive plants, diseases, and insects. Bit.ly/IDandReport

From: www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b

Equal Access Programs
Respect the Quarantine on Ash and Firewood

The EAB beetle has a limited flight range on its own, but can easily travel hundreds of miles in a single day with a little help from humans.

Larvae live under the bark of ash trees, and can survive in a cut tree for long enough to hitch a ride to a new area in a trailer full of logs or a pickup full of firewood. When the larvae emerge as adult beetles, they can start a whole new infestation in their new home.

This means that the speed of the EAB’s spread is mostly up to people, and not nature. You can help keep the spread of EAB slow and steady instead of fast and furious by following the quarantine rules set by federal and state agencies.

The rules cover the transport of the bug itself, live ash trees, any ash products with the bark and/or outer inch of sapwood still in place, and ash chips larger than 1 inch in two dimensions. All hardwood firewood is also regulated, regardless of whether any ash is included or not.

These products cannot be moved from inside the large shaded quarantine zone in the map below across any of the bold lines.

In Maryland, the line runs down the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.

These products can be moved across state lines.

Continued at “Quarantine”
Keep Your Equipment Fire Safe

The key to reducing equipment fires is to clean, inspect, and repair.

An equipment fire on your job site endangers the safety and assets of you, your operation, and the public. Your reputation may also suffer. Most of these fires are preventable.

The steps to prevention may take a few extra minutes per day, but can save you days or weeks of lost production, insurance hassles, and perhaps even injuries or death.

Most fires are caused by the accumulation of debris around exhaust systems; damaged or modified electrical, fuel, and hydraulic system components; a build-up of oil, grease, and fuel from leaks and spills; accumulation of debris around rotating shafts; or overheated brakes.

The key to reducing equipment fires is to clean, inspect, and repair.

Clean debris from the engine and exhaust at least once a day. Clean engine and transmission compartments at least once a week. Drop belly pans and steam or pressure clean the unit at least once a month. Immediately clean up fuel or oil spills.

Inspect battery cables, wiring, and hydraulic/fuel line connections and components. Repair or replace any defective components.

OSHA requires portable charged fire extinguishers in each machine and vehicle, and fire extinguisher training every year.

All engines must have a working spark arresting muffler.

Park equipment at least 50 feet apart in an area without debris or tall grass, and don’t leave the site for 30 minutes after shut down.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location/Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>WV Logger BMP Workshop</td>
<td>Watters Smith State Park, Lost Creek, WV, 8 am</td>
<td>304-825-6983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>WV Logger Recertification Training</td>
<td>Burlington Fire Dept., Burlington, WV, 8 am (all day)</td>
<td>304-822-4512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>ML Core: Sustainable Forestry I (MD Green Card)</td>
<td>Glatfelter, Spring Grove, PA, 12pm-4pm, $30</td>
<td>410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Safe Work Habits for Loggers</td>
<td>Cumberland, MD, 4pm-8pm, $30 (includes dinner)</td>
<td>410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a></td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Safe Work Habits for Loggers</td>
<td>Mechanicsville, MD, 4pm-8pm, $30 (includes dinner)</td>
<td>410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a></td>
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<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Safe Work Habits for Loggers</td>
<td>Salisbury, MD, 4pm-8pm, $30 (includes dinner)</td>
<td>410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a></td>
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<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Safe Work Habits for Loggers</td>
<td>Randallstown, MD, 4pm-8pm, $30 (includes dinner)</td>
<td>410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a></td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>WV Logger BMP Workshop</td>
<td>Watters Smith State Park, Lost Creek, WV, 8 am</td>
<td>304-825-6983</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>WV Logger Recertification Training</td>
<td>Harrison Co. 4-H Center, Clarksburg, WV, 8 am (all day)</td>
<td>304-825-6983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 5</td>
<td>WV Logger Recertification Training</td>
<td>Harrison Co. 4-H Center, Clarksburg, WV, 8 am (all day)</td>
<td>304-825-6983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 11</td>
<td>WV Logger BMP Workshop</td>
<td>WV Wood Technology Center, Elkins, WV, 8 am (all day)</td>
<td>304-256-6775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 12</td>
<td>WV Logger Recertification Training</td>
<td>WV Wood Technology Center, Elkins, WV, 8 am (all day)</td>
<td>304-256-6775</td>
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</table>

All listed events are eligible for ML CE credit hours equal to the length of the program.
Brian Blickenstaff honored as Logger of the Year

The MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee and Maryland Forests Association are pleased to announce Brian Blickenstaff as the 2012 Logger of the Year.

Brian runs a one-man logging operation that has maintained its place in today’s tough market by specializing in small and difficult jobs, and by focusing on excellent customer service and public relations. Brian is skilled in harvesting small tracts, hazard and property line trees, and timber left behind by larger operations.

Brian cares deeply about aesthetics. By using bumper trees, placing guard rocks, removing damaged trees, and cutting down tops when asked to, he makes sure that the landowner is happy with the way a job looks before leaving a site. In his words, “Trying to make each individual happy is the goal” of every logging job.

Brian is an expert in utilization and marketing, and usually keeps four piles on the landing: firewood, pulpwood, low grade logs, and high grade logs. Brian has harvested timber in the Frederick City Watershed forest, an area used heavily by the public. The DNR foresters were impressed with his diligence and the cleanliness of his work, and received calls from the public to compliment the job. According to Larry Maxim, a forester with the Maryland Forest Service, “He did it all to near perfection.”

Brian has an excellent reputation with his clients and the foresters he works with, and has managed to maintain a niche for himself in market conditions that have weeded out many similar operations.

A Tribute to Dick Stanfield

As the anniversary of his passing approaches, the MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee (MLSC) commends Richard “Dick” Stanfield, president and founder of Edrich Lumber, for his years of unwavering service to the Committee.

Dick served as an MLSC member, Treasurer, and Central Region Representative since the Master Logger Program’s inception in 1995. His generosity in time, effort, and facilities have always been appreciated. The Committee held almost all of its meetings in the Edrich Lumber meeting room, and has hosted many logger trainings in the Edrich pavilion.

His opinions and input were well respected, and helped make the MD/DE Master Logger Program the successful training and education program that it is today.

He was also a volunteer for his church, the Randallstown Lions, and Maryland Forests Association. He was a major player in the expansion of Baltimore County General Hospital into Northwest Hospital, of which he served as president of the board.

His contributions will not be forgotten.

CE Update available online and on DVD

The newest correspondence course opportunity to earn continuing education (CE) credits through the MD/DE Master Logger Program is now available online and on DVD.

The Continuing Education Update is a recording of a live class that combines several topics. These include an emerald ash borer update, salvage timber harvest safety, and fire prevention and safety. The class is about 4 hours long and is worth 4 CE credits.

Many free opportunities to earn CE credits online are listed at our website below. These include live webinars, recorded webinars, a DVD service, and streaming videos. There are options for watching online and for watching without using the internet.

More information and a link to the registration/order form for the CE Update and core courses are available at www.masterlogger.umd.edu.

Contact Nevin Dawson at ndawson@umd.edu or 410-827-8056 with questions or for help setting up computer programs.
Quarantine

within the yellow zone unless the receiving state has its own state quarantine that prohibits imports of ash.

Pennsylvania is an example. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is still enforcing the state quarantine on incoming hardwood firewood. This means that you may not transport untreated hardwood firewood into Pennsylvania, even though the federal quarantine doesn’t apply to most of Pennsylvania’s border.

You can get a certificate of inspection for regulated items that will allow you to take them across the quarantine boundaries.

There are also rules for crossing a yellow zone on your way from one white area to another white area. You don’t need a certificate, but in April through August the load must be covered or enclosed. If you have an uncovered load in the winter months, you may not stop in the yellow zone except to refuel.

These rules are no joke. Violators of the federal quarantine can be fined up to $250,000 and/or receive time in jail, and a state violation in Maryland carries a fine of up to $500 or 3 months imprisonment per piece of wood. A second violation has a max of $1,000 and one year in jail per piece. Even where there are no quarantine regulations in place, you should always avoid moving firewood more than 50 miles if at all possible: many areas within the quarantine zone are still not infested.

You can obtain a permit from USDA PPQ, 2400 Broening Hwy., Ste. 102, Baltimore, MD 21224; (410)288-5540.

Forest Products Operator License Update

As a professional logger working in Maryland, your business must have a Forest Products Operator (FPO) license issued by Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This shouldn’t be news to you, but there have been recent changes in the law that do affect you.

The FPO license is relevant to anyone buying or selling forest products as an on-going enterprise, so this most commonly includes loggers, sawmills, and firewood operators.

The primary purpose of the law and regulation is to protect the consumer and industry members, but many of the reporting requirements included in the annual application provide information needed by the Forest Service to better manage private forests and keep current with industry trends.

The most important change is that an FPO license is no longer just a formality. It can now be temporarily or permanently revoked if the operator fails to comply with existing laws and regulations pertaining to timber harvesting, environmental protections, or appropriate business practices.

If an operator’s license is revoked they may not operate a forest products business. Some examples of required and prohibited actions follow.

You may not use false or misleading advertising, including false professional qualifications, claims of experience, or licensing status.

You may not falsely represent the species or quantity of forest products sold or delivered.

You must keep documentation of all sales of chips produced at the site of harvest, logs, pulpwood, and firewood for one year from the date of sale.

You must include your FPO number in your advertisements of services offered or forest products for sale.

You must ensure the safe operation of all equipment used when working in the woods, and provide for the safety of the public and public property.

You must cooperate fully with DNR in any investigations.

You must tell DNR Forest Service in writing within 30 days when your phone number or address changes.

You are responsible for the quality and content of all work and acts performed by those working under your license.

As required by labor laws, you must obtain workman’s compensation insurance of at least the state minimum and keep it for as long as you have an FPO license.

Obtain or renew your FPO license by visiting www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/fpo_search.asp, or contacting Romesca Estep at MD DNR Forest Service, 580 Taylor Ave., E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401; 410-260-8521; REstep@dnr.state.md.us.

For questions regarding the regulations, contact Dan Rider at the above address, 410-260-8583, or DRider@dnr.state.md.us.
Emerald Ash Borer Signs and Symptoms

Galleries under bark
E.R. Day, VA Tech, Bugwood.org

Larva in gallery
D. Cappaert, MSU, Bugwood.org

Exit hole (actual size)
PA DCNR–Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org

Epicormic branching
E. Czerwinski, Ontario MNR, Bugwood.org

Report sightings to 800-342-2507 or hgic.umd.edu.