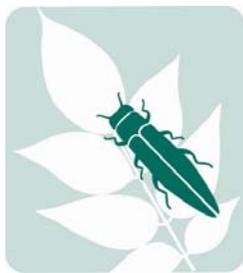


# Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Response Activities & Program Strategies – 2011\*



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This document serves to summarize incident response activities and statewide program strategies, identify priorities, guide work planning, document planned program activities and inform interested parties (media, partners, stakeholders). Activities and strategies included in this document are deemed high priority items for the Wisconsin Cooperative EAB Program in 2011.

The Cooperative EAB Program would like to highlight three new strategies incorporated into the 2011 document: 1. Encourage risk reduction and canopy retention practices in quarantined counties. 2. Assess the economic feasibility of mechanized harvesting in EAB infested urban areas to provide new cost – effective strategies for ash removal in communities. 3. Utilize communication and education to facilitate connections between markets and suppliers to increase existing and encourage development of new wood utilization business opportunities.

## **EAB Program Goals – 2011**

- Maintain a statewide detection program, prioritizing efforts in areas considered high risk for introduction of EAB.
- Conduct delimitation survey as necessary; using results to focus response activities.
- Reduce the impact and spread of EAB in infested areas.
- Pursue funding and partnerships to facilitate response activities.
- Provide outreach and education on prevention, preparedness and response options.

These goals will be pursued in EAB incident areas\*\* and on a statewide basis through strategic planning and the implementation of actions in the following seven program areas:

1. EAB and Ash Management
2. Survey
3. Regulation
4. Communication & Outreach
5. Utilization & Material Management
6. Funding
7. Research

## **Incident Area Response Activities**

### ***EAB and Ash Management***

- Employ the Wisconsin EAB Response Plan's modified ICS structure to meet immediate response needs.
  - Locally based EAB Response Units will form to plan and implement the following activities after a positive detection of EAB: survey, regulation, outreach and management.
  - The statewide EAB Operations Group will provide coordination, support and resources to these units.
- Employ and refine notification protocols for new detections
- Encourage risk reduction and canopy retention practices in quarantined counties including:
  - Voluntary removal and utilization of ash trees
  - Destruction of infested trees, following standards for destroying all life stages of EAB
  - Utilization of pesticides, preventively or therapeutically
- Encourage the use of the DNR's Urban Ash Management Guidelines.
- Continue work with municipal partners to encourage sound EAB management in communities.

### ***Survey***

- Provide a safe work environment and appropriate level of training for all staff.
- Develop delimit surveys as needed for new EAB detections
- Set flight data traps in known infested ash trees in Newburg, Oak Creek and Victory to obtain data on adult beetle emergence and peak flight patterns.
- Continue to work with municipal partners in affected urban areas on all aspects of EAB survey.
- Conduct dendrochronology analysis of new infestations when and where necessary.

### ***Regulation***

- Establishment of new quarantine zones as warranted.
- Identify persons or establishments whose business or personal activities could result in further dispersal of *Agrilus planipennis*.
- Provide guidance to affected businesses clarifying quarantine regulations through regulatory visits, mail, email and/or telephone, and determining if provisions of the quarantine may be applied to permit movement of regulated articles out of the quarantined area.
- Conduct physical site visits to monitor the activities of compliance agreement holders.
- Monitor and certify regulatory treatments when allowing movement of regulated articles
- Encourage participation in DATCP firewood certification program. DATCP and DNR will coordinate regulatory work and State EAB quarantine enforcement issues following the provisions of the NR 40 rule on invasive species.

### ***Communication and Outreach***

- Provide support and consultation regarding EAB and Ash Management activities.
- Communicate quarantine restrictions.
- Facilitate informational meetings.
- Implement or devise communication strategies to raise awareness of EAB and management strategies.

### ***Utilization and Material Management***

- Encourage creation of disposal/utilization sites to facilitate proper treatment of affected ash.
- Provide wood waste disposal guidance to landowners, homeowners, communities and tree-care professionals for proper and safe disposal of ash material.
- Create a dependable flow of raw products to processing industries and provide guidance to local units of government on wood yard specifications and utilization options.
- Support development of value-added products and businesses utilizing ash materials to help build markets.
- Expand wood utilization options through networking groups including Resource Conservation and Development Councils.
- Assess the economic feasibility of mechanized harvesting in EAB infested urban areas to provide new cost-effective strategies for ash removal in communities

### ***Funding***

- Pursue opportunities to procure funding (federal infrastructure, farm bill) to support incident response.

### ***Research***

- Encourage and support research in the incident areas.
- Collect data on factors influencing successful introduction of EAB biological controls.
- Implement biological control in southeast Wisconsin through a cooperative project with UW-Madison Department of Entomology.

## **Statewide Activities**

### ***EAB and Ash Management***

- Encourage landowners and managers to continue to follow sustainable forest management practices and use DNR guidance for reducing the economic and ecological impact of EAB.
- Encourage the use of the DNR's Urban Ash Management Guidelines and refine guidelines in response to new research and experience.
- Support development and implementation of community EAB readiness plans and tree inventories through the DNR urban forestry grant and technical assistance program.
- The State EAB Operations Group will work with and support the EAB Science Panel's efforts on developing operational bio-control initiatives for the State.

### ***Survey***

- Provide a safe work environment and appropriate level of training for all staff.
- Maintain a risk-based trapping program to detect new populations. Focus on areas at risk for introduction and where EAB will have a substantial impact specifically the Fox Valley area and south central Wisconsin.
- Maintain EAB Hotline and email report system to follow-up with field examinations as needed.
- Continue to build municipal and other locally based partnerships to expand the number of individuals looking for EAB.
- Explore development of a First Detector training program with partner agencies to train concerned citizens and report EAB as well as other insect and disease problems.

## ***Regulation***

- Establishment of new quarantine zones as warranted.
- Identify persons or establishments whose business or personal activities could result in further dispersal of *Agrilus planipennis*.
- Provide guidance to affected businesses that clarifies quarantine regulations through regulatory visits, mail, email, and/or telephone to determine if provisions of the quarantine may be applied to permit movement of regulated articles out of the quarantined area.
- Conduct physical site visits to monitor the activities of compliance agreement holders.
- Monitor and certify regulatory treatments when allowing movement of regulated articles.
- Encourage participation in DATCP firewood certification program.
- DATCP and DNR will coordinate regulatory work and State EAB quarantine enforcement issues following the provisions of NR 40.
- Conduct investigations to determine if a violation of the quarantine has occurred and trace the source and destination of any other related shipments of regulated material.
- Continue to enforce DNR firewood rule on DNR-managed properties.
- Support, promote and follow federal and local partner agencies firewood regulations.
- Conduct special operations to serve as deterrents and to inform the public of EAB and related regulations. The operations may include cooperation with law enforcement to perform inspections at rest stops and weigh stations to monitor compliance with quarantine regulations.

## ***Communication and Outreach***

- Update and enhance the public EAB website.
- Support and promote core EAB messages and recommendations (prevention, preparedness, response).
- Provide the means to share local municipal EAB management strategies with communities not yet affected by the insect.
- Respond to new communication needs as identified.
- Utilize communication and education to facilitate connections between markets and suppliers to increase existing and encourage development of new wood utilization business opportunities

## ***Utilization and Material Management***

- The Wisconsin Wood Utilization Group will work with local units of government, state and federal partners including Resource Conservation and Development staff to facilitate development of markets for wood utilization.
- Create a dependable flow of raw products to processing industries and provide guidance to local units of government on wood yard specifications and utilization options.
- Facilitate model methods for local governments and businesses to properly manage, treat and utilize infested wood.
- Provide template on ash utilization methods and/or markets to DNR Urban Forestry Coordinators.
- Encourage and support certification of firewood vendors and connection of local firewood vendors with public.
- Use information gathered in survey of campers to determine actions to remove impediments to the public using local or certified firewood.

### ***Funding***

- Continue to pursue funding from USDA APHIS and Forest Service, and from other sources such as the Farm Bill, for trapping and monitoring of EAB, readiness planning, management, reforestation, site restoration and other EAB mitigation efforts.
- Advocate for federal funding for accelerated research on detection and survey tools, management and control options.

### ***Research***

- Revise EAB introduction risk map with new multi-temporal Land Sat ash map developed through UW research project.
- Initiate research project focusing on effects of black ash mortality on site hydrology and development of mitigation options.
- Survey campers at state properties on firewood transport, motivation and barriers to changing behavior.
- Continue *Cerceris* detection and biosurveillance and pursue the use of mobile nests for EAB detection.

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\*Supplement to the Wisconsin EAB Response Plan, July 2008

\*\*Incident areas include all known points of EAB detection and/or infestation in the State