



Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program

Emerald Ash Borer Multi-Site Response Guide

www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov

EAB Hotline: 1-800-462-2803

The Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program is a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service and the United States Department of Agriculture –Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Pest Quarantine.

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Summary

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was detected for the first time in Wisconsin in 2008. In 2009 EAB was detected again, in four distinctly separate locations in the State. The EAB Response Plan drafted and approved by the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Cooperative Program in July 2008 initially called for the use of a detailed Incident Command Structure to respond to EAB detections. The original State EAB response strategy was utilized to guide operations during the 2008 Newburg EAB detection; however the recent EAB detections and their unique nuances led agency staff to consider alternative approaches to working in and with multiple EAB affected areas simultaneously.

In order to appropriately and efficiently utilize available resources the EAB Operations Committee developed an amended strategy for working with new EAB detections and infestations. Representatives from all cooperating agencies provided input and the plan was approved by the State EAB Advisory Group.

The changes incorporated into the EAB Response Plan allow for strong leadership and decision making at the local level (in the area of impact) as well as flexibility to incorporate newly evolved science-based initiatives in the areas of survey, regulation and management.

The new response strategy will look at EAB detections and infestations on a case by case basis. Response to EAB detections will now involve the EAB Operations Committee working with a multi-agency team of locally-based staff. The local team will be identified as a Response Unit. These response units will be developed as needed to appropriately manage all EAB related tasks in a given area. The area a Response Unit manages could be as small as one municipality or it could be large enough to cover several counties. Each local unit will have a staff member(s) uniquely suited to handle the following tasks: EAB survey, regulatory measures, outreach & education and resource management.

The coalition created between the EAB Operations Committee and the various Response Units will be able to merge central office resources with local resources to make beneficial decisions and carry out assignments in a timely, efficient and effective manner.

Complete information on this revision to the State's EAB Response Strategy may be found as an appendix to the July 2008 Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan.

The EAB Operations Committee

JoAnn Cruse-APHIS, Bob Dahl-DATCP, Andrea Diss-Torrance-DNR, Mark Heyde-DNR, Brian Kuhn-DATCP, Barbara Larson-UW Extension, Alecia Marson-APHIS, Dick Rideout-DNR, Jennifer Statz-DATCP, Mark Theisen-USFS, Jeff Weatherly-DNR

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EAB Multi-Site Infestation Response Guide January 7, 2010

In the future we can expect to find more populations of EAB around the state. Handling several populations concurrently requires that we streamline the response state agencies provide each infestation. The Operations Group made the following modifications to the Response Plan in order to better handle multiple populations and be sustainable with the current staff and resources of participating agencies. The Response Unit is meant to meet short term needs (about one year) and segue to long term management handled as part of the regular workload of staff.

Response Unit Coordination

While Response Units will function semi-independently, there will be a need for statewide coordination to assure state goals are addressed in the course of responding to individual or groups of infestations. Statewide coordination can also allow for sharing of labor intensive services such as workshops so that one serves the needs of several units. This coordination will be done by the EAB Operations Group. The Operations Group will assess the statewide situation and request infestations be handled individually or in groups as appropriate. The Operations Group will also provide guidance on the range of options for actions appropriate to specific infestations given state goals and staff availability. Communication between Response Units and the Operations Group is through a liaison member of the Operations Group, usually the one representing field forestry. Generally, Response Units would not plan actions that would require more staffing than they have available at their local level. Projects requiring a large number of staff, such as a Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM) approach to an infestation or the declaration of a zone of infestation, would only be undertaken at the direction of the Operations Group which would arrange for sufficient resources and staffing to accomplish the larger project.

Response Unit Formation

Response Units will be formed soon after an EAB find is confirmed. As the number of EAB populations increase, the responsibility of a Response Unit may expand to cover several nearby populations. Response Units must fulfill planning for the following functions in the first year following a find; Survey, Regulation, Outreach and Education, and Management. Some of these functions will be the responsibility of one state agency; some will involve staff from two or more agencies. Response Units will be locally focused with staff from the area filling crucial positions. That being said, functions may be filled by state or municipal staff at the state, regional or local level as appropriate for the task or the area of responsibility of a unit handling planning for more than one infestation. The lead for the unit should be DNR staff person handling management as he or she is most likely to be located nearest the infestation and be most aware of local needs. The lead will be the point of contact with the Operations Group liaison and will check-in with the Operations Group on a monthly basis.

Response Unit Goals and Corresponding Timeline of Goal Achievement

Once established, each Response Unit must develop a document outlining goals for their particular work group. This plan should include a one-year timeline for EAB work activities and must include the following functions:

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- **Survey:** Include initial survey plans, type of survey work scheduled and when it will be completed.
- **Regulation:** Include set up and establishment of quarantine zone (if needed), procedures and timelines for back tracing and forward tracing if requested by the Operations Group, and estimate of compliance agreements needed in area.
- **Outreach & Education:** Determine what levels of outreach are needed and a timeline for when they will take place. Include information on public meetings, where and how many educational brochures will be distributed and media interviews/contacts.
- **Management:** Timeline for initial management activities and what types of long term activities will be handed off to local staff for implementation.

Response Units can select among the bulleted functions described below for appropriate actions for their situation or propose new approaches to achieve these goals. The plan is then sent to the Operations Group liaison. The Operations Group will coordinate any projects that require cooperation between units and provide support needed by the Response Unit to achieve its goals. The Response Unit will also notify local partners once the group is formed and work is beginning.

Response Unit Closeout Process

Response Units should plan to address only those needs that must be met within about one year of the discovery of the EAB population in the area for which they are responsible. Longer term projects should be handled as part of the normal pest management workload. Response Units will start out with members who are responsible for each of the four functions. Once the planned projects addressing a function are completed, the member responsible for that function may leave the Unit unless their expertise is need for projects of another function. Once the goals for a unit have been met for the EAB population it is responsible for, the unit should disband.

Response Unit Functions

Survey

Surveying will be done around a find if it appears to be distinct from previously known populations and/or if this information is needed to implement regulatory or management activities. There is a range of survey intensities and each distinct find will be assessed by the Operations Group as to what level of survey intensity is initially appropriate, if any, with input from the local Response Unit on what information they need to do the regulation and management work planned.

If survey is necessary, the DATCP staff person who will coordinate the survey for a particular Response Unit will be designated by Jen Statz (DATCP). DATCP will lead survey initiatives but may require the assistance of local personnel resources to carry out survey operations in a given area. For example, DNR or municipal foresters may be asked to conduct visual surveys of specific areas.



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- Delimitation Survey
 - The decision of whether to do a delimitation survey and or aging an infestation will be made by the Operations Group with input from the Response Unit for that infestation.
 - This type of survey is most appropriate where a find appears completely distinct from known populations and in a situation that would require the placement of quarantine or other regulatory action. For example, where a new county would be quarantined or where a new zone of infestation would need to be declared within a quarantined area.
 - This type of survey is the most intensive. It involves prism traps in a gridded area or visual surveying combined with cutting and peeling suspect trees if the survey must be done outside the summer flight period.
 - Delimitation surveys are considered completed after one season or one year if multiple techniques are determined to be necessary by the Operations Group.
 - DATCP staff will generally conduct delimitation surveys with assistance of municipal and/or local DNR staff facilitating access to sites and trees for cutting and peeling or with the survey itself.
- Aging of the Infestation
 - Aging of the infestation using tree cores or “cookies” would normally only be done as part of a delimitation survey. Not all delimitation surveys may require aging of the population.
 - A method to estimate infestation age from condition of ash may eventually be developed. This coarse estimation technique could be used in rapid visual surveys.
- Rapid Visual Assessment (RVA)
 - This technique is the least intensive and quickest but least sensitive method of surveying for signs and symptoms of EAB infestation.
 - RVA could be done on request by Response Units, communities or agencies if the information is needed and would be sufficient for specific management purposes. Requests for an RVA would go through a Response Unit to the Operations Group for decision.
 - DATCP staff would lead most RVA with local and/or municipal staff playing a significant role.
- Aerial or satellite surveys of discoloration, dieback and mortality
 - These surveys are not specific to damage done by EAB and ground-truthing is required to confirm EAB tree mortality.
 - Aerial surveys are done as part of normal work by DNR forest health staff where there is significant, map-able mortality.
 - Satellite surveys may be used more in the future as a tool to detect distress in trees.

Regulation

Regulation includes both the placement of quarantines or zones of infestation where they did not already exist as well as actions that follow. Bob Dahl (DATCP) is the lead person on regulatory issues of woody plants for the State. For each Response Unit, Bob will designate the DATCP regulatory staff person who will cover this function for the unit.

- Containment. If a find is in an unquarantined area, the process to add it to the regulated area is started immediately following confirmation of EAB.

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- A federal quarantine regulates interstate movement of potentially infested material. APHIS staff are responsible for the placing of a federal quarantine at the county or state level.
- The DATCP may place a state quarantine on a parcel or county to regulate movement of potentially infested material within Wisconsin.
- The DNR may declare a zone of infestation requiring specified treatment or regulation. Such a declaration would likely need a delimitation survey so would only be done after the Operations Group determined a strong need and that adequate staff could be directed to the survey and resulting regulation and management.
- Back Tracing
 - In many cases, the infestation will be obviously too old to determine how it was initially brought into the area. The Operations Group will determine if back tracing will be attempted for a new infestation.
 - If done, and depending on the circumstance, DATCP or APHIS staff would do back tracing.
- Forward Tracing
 - Since forward tracing can be done on recent movement of material, they can be done in almost all situations but may not be necessary for all infestations.
 - Forward traces done immediately after identification of an infestation may be helpful in determining needed compliance actions or in targeting education efforts.
 - Depending on the circumstance, DATCP or APHIS staff will do forward tracing.
- Compliance Agreement Development
 - This will be an on-going workload as regulated businesses start or expand into the quarantined area.
 - DATCP and APHIS staff handle compliance agreement development.
- Compliance Agreement Enforcement
 - This will be an on-going workload.
 - DATCP and APHIS handle enforcement of compliance agreements.
- Development of contact lists for specific regulated groups
 - Groups would include firewood dealers, portable sawmill owners, tub grinder operators and others.
 - These lists would be used in regulation, outreach and education and management efforts.
 - DATCP staff will develop contact lists with assistance from local municipal and DNR staff.

Outreach and Education

Effective containment and management of EAB requires the participation of the public. Outreach and education thus play a crucial role in reducing the spread of EAB and managing its impacts. Response Units should focus on the outreach and educational needs specific to immediate (within the first year) regulatory and management needs of the infestation or infestations for which it is responsible.

- Localized area of EAB population
 - UW Extension will be active in serving local needs for awareness of EAB infestations and what people in the area need to do to respond to the population of the pest. Outreach efforts could include,



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- Organizing workshops for local governments, landowners, and the general public on what has been found and options for responding to the local threat. The EAB Operations Group will help coordinate Response Units so workshops can benefit two or more infested areas if practical.
 - Help make key community leaders, citizens, business, landowners, and others more aware of regulatory requirements surrounding issues like quarantines and firewood movement.
 - Providing educational material to local businesses and gathering places on how the public can prevent spreading EAB in firewood.
 - Serving as a local media contact.
 - Making local residents and governments aware of outreach and educational resources available to them.
 - Working with local government staff to disperse educational messages.
 - Serving as a communications link between local government and DATCP and DNR staff.
 - Making personal contacts with businesses and community leaders, especially in rural communities.
- Targeted Audiences
 - DNR and UW Extension staff will carry messages to targeted audiences. Targeted outreach efforts include,
 - Providing technical advice for management of EAB to communities and woodland owners in the area of infestation.
 - Providing training on preventing spread of EAB to private foresters, loggers, ROW clearing crews, arborists and other industry professionals. Contact information for specific groups in the infested area may be available from DATCP regulatory staff.
 - Presentations to woodland owners and affected community residents on management options.
 - Providing workshops on specific topics such as utilization of infested wood.

Management

Guiding management of EAB will primarily be the responsibility of DNR and municipal foresters of affected areas. Response Units plan and implement projects that meet immediate (within the first year), local management needs for the infestation or infestations they serve. Longer term management should be considered part of the normal pest management workload of the local foresters both DNR and municipalities. Training staff, inventorying local resources or other preparatory work for local staff taking on the responsibility of managing EAB in their area, however, would be appropriate projects for the Response Unit. Whether local, regional or state staff would be assigned to a Response Unit will depend on whether one or several infestations are served by a unit or the local needs for expertise, (rural or urban for example). DNR regional directors should favor assigning the most local staff person given the area of the Response Unit's responsibilities. Potential projects include,

- Developing local EAB forest management response objectives.
- Providing local woodland owners with sustainable forest management recommendations aimed at mitigating EAB impacts.

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- Facilitating forestry management practices such as group salvage/sanitation timber sales for small landowners.
- Assisting forest tax law landowners with modifications of forest management plans.
- Advising communities on tree removal, processing and reforestation.
- Advising communities on management options, including treatments. County and community foresters would be involved in setting and accomplishing immediate goals at these government levels.
- Conducting or guiding forest or urban ash tree inventories.
- Facilitating utilization of the ash resource by connecting woodland owners and communities with forest products markets.
- Working with federal agencies and universities to test new management techniques or utilization options.
- Release or use of beneficial organisms.
- Offering grant opportunities to affected communities and landowners.



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EAB Response Unit Resources

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Survey

- 2009 DATCP EAB Survey Program FAQ sheet
<http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/2009SurveyProgramFAQs.pdf>

Regulation

- Managing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB Infested Wood ~ *Regulations and Recommendations for Transport, Storage, Utilization and Disposal*)
- Ash Wood Utilization Options: Regulations and Recommendations
- Transporting Ash Wood for Utilization or Disposal
- Ash Wood Processing Options and Regulations
- Interstate Movement of Regulated Articles from EAB Quarantined Areas
- Easy Guide for Emerald Ash Borer Regulations

Management

- Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Response Activities and Program Strategies – 2009
- Wisconsin EAB Management Guidelines
<http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/EABWIMManagementGuidelines.pdf>
- EAB Toolkit ~ <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/eab/>
- EAB Revised Silvicultural Guidelines
- Urban Ash Management Guidelines
- Wisconsin Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Management Plan
- Wisconsin Cooperative EAB Response Plan

Outreach & Education

(the following are available via the listed DNR forestry publication #s at the DNR warehouse):

- Call List: local government officials and affected parties
- Emerald Ash Borer plastic ID card (Pub# FR-353)
- www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov
- Posters available for download in the “resources” tab from the top menu bar at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov include 8.5 x 11 and 8.5 x 14 versions of firewood and quarantine posters for public (DNR) and private properties. More versions of these will be available in July 2009 that are more “timeless,” meaning the specific quarantined counties will not be listed on them, but rather a message about firewood movement and reference to the firewood info line and the EAB website.
- The Green Menace tri-fold brochure by USDA (Pub# FR-348)

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Wisconsin EAB ICS Response Structure – January 2010
 *Example for use of ICS Structure

