

# FIREWOOD BEST PRACTICES FOR PRODUCERS



**Did you know** that by moving firewood you could be moving highly destructive forest pests?

As a producer, knowing proper firewood production techniques is vital to protecting our trees, forests and your business from pests and diseases.

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) works with producers, retailers, campground operators and the public to stop the spread of invasive forest pests. No one person or group can stop the spread of invasive forest pests – we all need to work together. With the help of a national advisory group, 'best practices' have been developed as part of the Buy Local, Burn Local national campaign to stop the movement of forest pests in firewood.

As an important partner, the following eight best practices have been developed with and for producers to encourage responsible firewood production and sales. These best practices provide a practical checklist to help make sure you are distributing firewood that is 'invasive pest free'.

**Forest pests such as gypsy moths, emerald ash borer and the Asian long-horn beetle are often moved through firewood and can destroy Canadian forests and urban trees.**

**Canada's annual timber losses due to invasives are estimated at \$720 million**

*(Canadian Action Plan for Invasive Alien Terrestrial Plant and Plant Pests (CFIA, September, 2004) ).*

## Eight Best Practices for Producers

### 1. Know before you cut.

Know the signs and symptoms for high risk pests in your area. Inspect standing trees often for signs of pests or infection such as exit holes in the bark. Optimal harvest time may be adjusted depending on the lifecycle of a particular pest to mitigate the spread of that pest. Tree selection should be planned prior to harvest time. For more information, visit the Canadian Forest Service's (CFS) database on Canadian pests at [tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca](http://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca)

### 2. Heat treat your firewood.

Heat treatment is the most effective treatment method to ensure pest-free firewood. **Firewood should be heated in a kiln to an internal temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes** to eliminate pests and pathogens. If your facility does not have a kiln, consider options for kiln-sharing with other producers. Ensure that your heat treatment practices have been certified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a third-party auditor or an inspector accredited by the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board (CSLAB).

*Avoid moving firewood outside of regulated areas. Without approval, movement outside of regulated areas is prohibited, no matter the distance. Visit [www.inspection.gc.ca/firewood](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/firewood) for more information.*

### 3. Sell local firewood.

If heat treating firewood is not an option, then supplying or using firewood close to where it has been harvested reduces the chances of transporting invasive pests or pathogens. Limit the movement of partially or untreated firewood as best as possible –



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shorter distances are always preferred. Partial treatment of firewood includes a combination of the following methods:

- a. Bark removal, and at least ¼ inch (64 mm) of wood below the bark, as this is where many invasive species reside.
- b. Drying/Seasoning of Firewood for at least 1 to 2 years, until its moisture content is less than 20%.

These methods are not comprehensive enough to ensure that all larvae, diseases or pests are sufficiently removed, but they can help reduce the overall amount of them residing in the wood. Also, any removed bark or unwanted wood must be properly disposed to mitigate the risk of spreading invasive pests.

#### 4. Know the requirements for firewood movement.

Before you ship any firewood to retailers or consumers, know the requirements for domestic movement of firewood in Canada, as outlined by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency\*. Be aware of additional regulations that may exist at provincial, territorial or regional levels. If you export to the US, additional measures are required\*\*. Processed fuel logs and fuel wood pellets are exempt from firewood requirements.

#### 5. Record, label and store firewood.

Keep records that show the origin of harvest, date of harvest, species harvested, and treatment method(s) used for the firewood you are producing. Firewood that has been certified and treated should be labelled and properly stored and separated from untreated firewood to prevent new infestation. If you produce local, partially or untreated firewood, include informative labeling and packaging to provide important information to retailers and consumers such as:

- a. Species of tree
- b. Where and when was the firewood harvested?
- c. What treatment method(s) were used?
- d. Was and how long was the wood seasoned for?

All firewood should be stored in a dry area protected from moisture and away from vegetation, soil and lighting. Consider adding slogans such as "**Buy Local, Burn Local**" to the label to inform consumers of best practices\*\*\*.

*Contact your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office if you suspect that you have found a regulated pest. The CFIA will follow up and determine if further action is needed.*

#### 6. Report infested firewood and invasive pests.

Regulated invasive pests and disease must be reported. If you suspect that some of your product may be infested by invasive pests or disease, call the CFIA at **1-800-442-2342** or visit [www.inspection.gc.ca/pests](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/pests) for more information.

#### 7. Provide staff training.

Provide information and training to your staff on the risks associated with firewood movement, and the identification features of priority invasive species. Trained staff will be better equipped to recognize and respond to infested firewood. Downloadable resources are available at [www.buylocalburnlocal.ca](http://www.buylocalburnlocal.ca).

#### 8. Communicate the risk to your customers and partners.

- a. Take pride in the steps your company is taking to reduce the spread of invasive species. Advertise your responsible firewood practices and certifications on your website.
- b. Educate your customers on the risks associated with firewood movement. Provide them with informational resources and encourage them to '**Buy Local, Burn Local**'.
- c. Educate your partners on the risks associated with firewood movement and encourage them to implement best management practices..

By volunteering to commit to these eight best practices, the CCIS would like to recognize you as an ambassador of the **Buy Local, Burn Local** campaign! Through this, you will receive formal recognition on our website, as well as resources such as posters and window decals for your retail store. For more information on how to join, visit [www.buylocalburnlocal.ca](http://www.buylocalburnlocal.ca)

*Developed in partnership by the National Firewood Working Group.*

\* Specific requirements are described in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's directive D-01-12: Phytosanitary Requirements for the Importation and Domestic Movement of Firewood.<sup>1</sup>

\*\* For information on firewood movement into the U.S. please visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/firewood>.

\*\*\* To encourage purchase of your firewood, ensure that it is dry, clean and convenient for purchase.

1 <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/directives/forestry/d-01-12/eng/1323828428558/1323828505539>