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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Consumer Alert: Firewood Scams**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Dec. 5, 2008) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture warns consumers to exercise caution when purchasing firewood for this winter. Recent complaints filed with the department's Weights and Measures division involved door-to-door firewood salesmen who illegally sold fractions of a cord to unknowing customers. After paying for a cord of wood (128 cubic feet.), consumers realized that the product they received was not the adequate amount.

Ohioans should make certain to complete the following steps when purchasing firewood from salesmen, including door-to-door, in order to avoid being burned.

#### **Measure the Firewood BEFORE Making Payment**

- Non-packaged firewood must be sold by the cord or by fractions of a cord. One cord, when properly stacked, should be 8 feet long by 4 feet high and 4 feet wide (128 cubic feet).
- If sold in bulk, firewood must be purchased by the weight in ton measurements. This must be weighed on a certified scale.

#### **Obtain a Receipt BEFORE Parting Ways with the Seller**

- If non-packaged firewood is purchased, the seller must present the consumer with a delivery ticket or sales invoice that includes contact information and the terms and conditions of the sale.
- Receipt should include the seller's name, address, phone number, amount of wood purchased and type of wood purchased.

#### **When in Doubt, DON'T Buy**

If consumers are suspicious of the seller, they should decline the transaction and should immediately contact the department's Weights and Measures division, at 1-800-282-1955.

For more information regarding firewood purchases, visit [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov).

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