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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN SHELBY COUNTY

Residents Urged to Use Caution When Transporting Firewood this Summer

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (July 22, 2011) – Ohio Department of Agriculture officials have confirmed emerald ash borer in Shelby County. Residents who are planning camping trips this summer are being urged to use caution when transporting firewood to help protect against the artificial spread of this and other insect pests.

Late last year the Ohio Department of Agriculture expanded the state's emerald ash borer quarantine to include all 88 counties. The quarantine stipulates that ash materials and hardwood firewood cannot be taken from a quarantined area into a non-quarantined area. Despite the fact that the statewide quarantine allows for ease of movement of ash materials and hardwood firewood, it is recommended that Ohioans continue to exercise caution when moving these materials.

The federal quarantine, enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, remains in effect. This quarantine makes it illegal to transport ash trees, parts of ash trees and all hardwood firewood out of the state of Ohio.

Left untreated, ash trees infested with emerald ash borer typically die within five years. The pest belongs to a group of metallic wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark green, one-half inch in length, one-eighth inch wide and fly from early May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees and leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide when they emerge as adults.

For information on the emerald ash borer, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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