



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
PLANT PROTECTION

Situation Update EAB Minnesota

November 4, 2010

MDA Files RF-1036, RF-1076 and Statewide Survey

Lead Agencies:

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine

Date and Time Completed: December 2, 2010, 2:00 PM
Operational Period: November 5, 2010 to December 2, 2010



OVERVIEW:

On April 6, 2009, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in Victory, WI, approximately one mile from Minnesota and Iowa (Incident No. RF-1036). May 13, 2009, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) staff preliminarily confirmed an EAB infestation reported by a private arborist in St. Paul, MN, which was later confirmed by the federal identifier. This was the first detection in the state (Incident No. RF-1076). On February 28, 2010, EAB was confirmed in Hennepin County at Tower Hill Park in Minneapolis. On April 28, 2010, EAB was confirmed in Houston County on the Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

The MDA enacted an emergency quarantine of Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston Counties on May 15, 2009, followed by a formal quarantine on August 17, 2009. United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA) imposed a parallel quarantine. The Incident Command System was activated, with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) joining the other two agencies as a three-way Unified Command.

At this point, visual delimit surveys and tree dissection indicate that the south St Anthony Park Neighborhood is the start of the Ramsey / Hennepin infestation. The Houston County infestation appears to be due to natural spread from the Victory, WI infestation. The Houston County and Ramsey / Hennepin sites are the only two infestations known in Minnesota.

Regarding regulation, MDA and USDA are accommodating requests for compliance agreements (CAs). Follow up inspections are being conducted on a pre-determined schedule.

SURVEY:

2010 EAB Survey Summary Table: X = this operational period, (Y) = total in 2010.

Minnesota Survey	Suspect Tree Assessment Survey				Detection & Removed Trees			Trapping (Purple Traps)					
	Conducted	Not Suspect	Suspect	Positive	Established (Detection)	Negative	Positive	Placed	Negative 1 st Check	Negative 2 nd Check	Negative 3 rd check	Removed	Positive
First Detector Response by PPQ/MDA	(1)	(1)											
Risk-based Survey								(1040)	(1040)	(853)	(129)	119 (1040)	
Ramsey/Hennepin Quarantine	(1622)	(1478)	(108)	(35)	D (15)	D (2) R (65)	D (11) R (124)	(298)	(297)	(116)		23 (298)	(2)
Grid-based Survey *	(7)		(7)	(4)				(1502)	(1500)	(1439)	(99)	106 (1500)	(2)
Totals	(1628)	(1478)	(115)	(39)	(15)	(67)	(135)	(2840)	(2837)	(2408)	(228)	248 (2838)	(4)

*** Includes Houston County quarantine area. See map attached for area delineation.**

USDA Report

- No activity

MDA Report

- EAB calls on the Arrest the Pest line have dwindled to almost 0 as most people are now finding suspected brown marmorated stink bugs instead.
- Trap data verification is complete and data will now be submitted to NAPIS and ISIS
- 2011 EAB work plan for survey, etc is in development at MDA. An estimated 4500 traps are planned for Minnesota in 2011.

REGULATORY

2010 EAB Regulatory Summary Table: X = this operational period, (Y) = total since quarantine enacted.
 CA = Compliance Agreement

Regulated County	No. of Active State CAs	No. of Inactive State CAs Signed	No. of State CA monitoring visits completed	No. of Active Joint State & Federal CAs	No. of Inactive Joint State & Federal CAs signed	No. of Joint CA monitoring visits completed
Nonspecific						
Hennepin/Ramsey	(56)	(22)	(52)	(7)	(4)	(34)
Houston	(0)	(0)	(0)	(3)	(5)	(9)
Total	(56)	(22)	(52)	(10)	(9)	(43)

Statewide

USDA Report

- USDA & MDA conducted a regulatory site visit at a firewood producer in Fillmore County.
- USDA conducted nine firewood inspections outside the quarantine.

MDA Report:

- A firewood producer has requested assistance with a special permit to ship firewood to Florida
- A firewood producer has requested a phytosanitary certificate to ship firewood to Canada
- Inspected a new firewood producer that has requested heat treatment certification testing
- 39 firewood inspections completed
- 24 regulatory files closed

Ramsey/Hennepin Quarantine

USDA Report

- USDA & MDA conducted four joint compliance agreement monitoring visits.
 - Three firewood distributors.
 - One mill/manufacturing.
- USDA conducted three joint compliance agreement monitoring visits.
 - Two mulch producers.
 - One pallet producer.
- USDA conducted 14 firewood inspections inside the quarantine.

MDA Report

- 1 site visit to a new mulch/compost facility to review the conditions of a possible future compliance agreement
- 3 compliance agreement inspections
 - Compost/mulch producer in Hastings
 - Nursery in Inver Grove Heights
 - Tree care company in Inver Grove Heights

Houston Quarantine

USDA Report

- USDA & MDA conducted one joint compliance agreement monitoring visit. The mill has two compliance agreements.

MDA Report

- Joint inspection of Crystal Valley Hardwood
 - Debarked lumber, approximately 2000 bdft (2 MBF) ready for shipment
 - Railroad ties to be shipped under compliance agreement
 - Cants to be shipped under compliance agreement
 - Approximately 5000 bdft (5 MBF) of ash lumber to be debarked before shipping
- Joint inspection of firewood dealer in Spring Valley
 - Advertising "USDA Approved" firewood

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

DNR Report

- Val Cervenka and Mark Abrahamson gave an EAB tour of the metro to Forest Health Specialists Mike and Jana Albers on Nov 17.

MDA Report

- Forest Pest First Detector conference call held on Dec 1. 6 workshops are planned for Feb/March 2011.
- MDA hosted a booth at the MN-WI Invasive Species Conference
- EAB DVDs for public access television have been created. Hennepin County already has its DVD and others to be delivered at the forum
- Several Hundred pieces of outreach material sent to International Falls to a naturalist who then wants to further distribute in Northern Minnesota
- MDA now has a fully operational Tree Care Registry page and search for professional tree companies <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/licensing/licensetypes/treecareregistry.aspx>
- Reminder that the certified firewood producers are posted on MDA's website at: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/firewood/firewooddealers.aspx>
- A total of 13,329,064 impressions were created as a result of advertising in 2010

University of Minnesota Report

- EAB presentations were given during Turf and Ornamental Recertification programs at St. Cloud, Chaska, Marshall, Stillwater, Baxter, Farmington, Andover, Mankato, and St. Paul.

MITIGATION:

MDA Report

- Suspect tree assessment
 - 2 positive trees identified – 1 in Minneapolis, 1 in St Paul
 - 103 suspect trees identified – 34 in Minneapolis, 69 in St Paul
 - 843 trees not suspect – 253 in Minneapolis, 590 in St Paul
- 16 girdled trees were removed by City of St Paul on 11/22 and 11/23. MDA sampled the trees to gauge the level of EAB activity. A couple trees had fairly high densities of EAB, but surprisingly

- no EAB were found in 6 of the trees. Notably, virtually all larvae found were prepupa (ready to emerge in 2011). Trees sampled last winter were more weighted towards younger instars.
- Biological Control of Emerald Ash Borer in the Twin Cities - Two potential biological control agent release sites were selected in Minneapolis for 2011 releases. The sites were selected by the following group: Ralph Sievert and Philip Potyondy with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation; Rachel Coyle with the City of St. Paul; Essam Dabaan with APHIS PPQ; Juli Gould, an EAB biocontrol researcher with APHIS and instrumental in developing the national biocontrol program; and Mark Abrahamson, Jonathan Osthus, and Monika Chandler with MDA. Site selection was based upon the presence of EAB, an abundance of ash trees, and other considerations such as planned tree removal. The sites are in the Tower Hill Park area and along the Mississippi (see map). Both sites are in Minneapolis, but are close to St. Paul infestations. The biological control agents are expected to disperse into surrounding areas.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Survey

MDA Report

- Submit trap data to NAPIS and ISIS

USDA Report

Regulatory

USDA Report

- Continue firewood inspections inside and outside of the quarantine area.
- Continue compliance agreement checks.
- Outreach site visits.

MDA Report

- Continue compliance inspections
- Continue firewood inspections and follow-ups
- Continue renewing expiring Compliance Agreements (intrastate)
- Test new heat treatment facility with assistance from Wisconsin DATCP
- Begin recertification process with existing heat treatment facility

Outreach

DNR Report

MDA Report

- Start work on next year's efforts
- Develop activity book for kids
- Develop lesson plan for kids
- Prepare for Green Expo in beginning of January

Mitigation

- Continued tree assessment and sampling in St Paul / Minneapolis infested area.

Emerald Ash Borer Biocontrol in Twin Cities, Minnesota

