

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, September 6, 2016**

## **Emerald ash borer discovered in Dodge County**

*MDA placing county under emergency quarantine*

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has placed Dodge County under an emergency quarantine after emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in the city of Kasson. A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) trap captured the insect. MDA staff has since conducted a search of the area and has discovered an EAB infested tree.

Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Dodge County, the MDA is enacting an emergency quarantine to limit the movement of firewood and ash material out of the county. This will reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect. Currently 12 other Minnesota counties and Park Point in the city of Duluth are under quarantine to prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae. There are three easy steps Minnesotans can take to keep EAB from spreading:

- **Don't transport firewood.** Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it;
- **Be aware of the quarantine restrictions.** If you live in a quarantined county, be aware of the restrictions on movement of products such as ash trees, wood chips, and firewood; and,
- **Watch your ash trees for infestation.** If you think your ash tree is infested, go to [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab) and use the “Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?” guide.

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Since its accidental introduction into North America, EAB has killed tens of millions of ash trees in 24 states. The invasive insect was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009.

Minnesota is highly susceptible to the destruction caused by EAB. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation.

**CONTACT:** Allen Sommerfeld, MDA Communications  
651-201-6185 / [allen.sommerfeld@state.mn.us](mailto:allen.sommerfeld@state.mn.us)

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**625 Robert St. N. • St. Paul, MN 55155-2538 • 1-800-967-2474 • [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)**

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