

STORY: EMERALD ASH BORER

Air Date: For Immediate Release

Length 2:20

Suggested Intro

LABOR DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND FOR MANY FOLKS THAT MEANS ONE FINAL SUMMER CAMPING EXPERIENCE, COMPLETE WITH A CAMP FIRE. THE DNR WANTS TO REMIND YOU THAT FIREWOOD RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN PLACE. DENNY BEHR HAS THE STORY.

Roll Package

nats fire

THE RULES FOR BUILDING CAMPFIRES IN MINNESOTA STATE PARKS HAVE CHANGED.

nats "...did you bring any wood in with you?..."

HERE AT WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK, JUST NORTH OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX, THAT QUESTION GETS ASKED DOZENS OF TIMES EACH DAY. THAT'S BECAUSE THIS SPRING A LAW WAS PASSED RESTRICTING THE USE OF FIREWOOD IN STATE PARKS. ITS ALL DUE TO THIS TINY GREEN INSECT....

nats 35mm

...THE EMERALD ASH BORER.

VAL CERVENKA

"...emerald ash borer is a beetle... whose larvae burrow beneath the bark, and they effectively girdle a tree by cutting off the food and water supply from the roots to the top of the tree..."

nats 35mm

VAL CERVENKA (sir-vang-ka) IS A FOREST ENTOMOLOGIST WITH THE MINNESOTA DNR.

VAL CERVENKA "...ash makes up seven percent of all the species of trees in Minnesota...we have about nine hundred million ash trees..."

THAT MAKES MINNESOTA THIRD IN THE NATION IN NUMBERS OF ASH TREES... A REAL TARGET FOR THE EMERALD ASH BORER.

VAL CERVENKA "... the potential is incredible devastation to all ash..."

THE BUG WAS FIRST FOUND IN MICHIGAN, IN 2002, AND HAS SINCE SPREAD TO INDIANA, ILLINOIS, OHIO, AND PARTS OF CANADA. IT HAS DESTROYED MORE THAN 20 MILLION TREES, AND IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN SPREAD BY THE TRANSPORTATION OF FIREWOOD.

BILL ANDERSON IS THE PARK MANAGER AT WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

BILL ANDERSON "...we find that people that are coming from the east are already aware of these firewood restrictions..."

WHAT ARE THOSE RESTRICTIONS? BASICALLY, YOU CAN BRING FIREWOOD IN THAT YOU BOUGHT FROM AN APPROVED MINNESOTA VENDOR LOCATED WITHIN 100 MILES OF A PARK. YOU CAN ALSO BUY FIREWOOD AT MANY STATE PARKS.

nats crumpling paper for fire

GERRY SCHERBING DID JUST THAT.

nats, picking up firewood from pile on ground; nats, lighter click

GERRY SCHERBING "...we always enjoy a fire...we burn at least a couple of bundles of wood per night...its a very much needed part of the camping experience....."

EVEN THOUGH HE HAD TO BUY HIS FIREWOOD, SCHERBING BELIEVES THE RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY.

nats fire

ANDERSON THINKS SO TOO, AND HE HAS A TIP FOR FOLKS WHO WANT TO BRING FIREWOOD FROM HOME.

BILL ANDERSON "...the tip is, leave it at home because if you bring it here, you will have to surrender it to stay at the park..."

I'M DENNY BEHR, WITH THE MINNESOTA DNR.

Suggested Tag

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S "ARREST THE PEST" HOTLINE BY DIALING 651-201-6684 IN THE METRO AREA, OR 888-545-6684 IN GREATER MINNESOTA. YOU CAN ALSO VISIT THEIR WEB SITE AT <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives>