

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

DIRECTIVE

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: E-5-24 B

SUBJECT: TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/15/2024

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Review every four years, will only be updated if substantive changes are required.

APPENDIX: None

REFERENCE: Minnesota Statute 84D and DNR Operational Order 113

DISTRIBUTION: All Conservation Officers

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

This directive is for division use only and does not modify or supersede any law and should not apply to any criminal or civil proceeding except civil proceedings related to departmental administrative actions. This directive should not be viewed as creating a higher standard of safety or care in any evidentiary sense. Violations of this directive may form the basis for departmental administrative action.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide direction to officers on compliance with Minnesota State Statute 84D and Operational Order 113 (Invasive Species) in an effort to prevent or limit the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species while performing field law enforcement activities.

II. GOAL/OBJECTIVE

Officers will inspect patrol vehicles, recreational vehicles, and equipment to reduce the threat of transporting/introducing invasive species or pathogens. Inspection and cleaning shall occur prior to leaving public or private lands accessed with all state vehicles.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Clean** – The removal of plants, invertebrates, and pathogens by physical, chemical, or biological means.
- B. **Decontaminate** – To wash, drain, dry, or thermally or otherwise treat equipment in order to remove or destroy terrestrial invasive species.
- C. **Inspect** – To examine officer's patrol vehicle, recreation vehicles and equipment for terrestrial invasive plant materials, seeds or mud that could spread to other public and private lands.

IV. PROCEDURES

Patrol activities that require travel on public and private lands may allow for the spread of invasive terrestrial species. Officers shall ensure that they are aware of locations where invasive terrestrial species exist within their patrol area.

A. Sequence of Patrol Locations:

Officers should sequence the public and private lands they plan to patrol in an effort to patrol infested areas last. This will reduce the possibility of transporting/introducing invasive species from infested areas to non-infested areas.

B. Leaving Public and Private Lands:

Upon leaving public or private lands officers will take the necessary precautions at the access point to ensure vehicles and equipment are inspected and cleaned. This process will take place on land in the immediate area where the officer leaves the public or private land.

C. Seized/Confiscated Equipment or Taxidermy Carcass with Beetles:

A secondary threat for movement of invasive species is the transportation of seized equipment (boats, trailers, ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) and beetles used in taxidermy. Officers shall ensure that any seized equipment is inspected and cleaned before being transported. Taxidermy carcass with beetles shall be bagged on site prior to being transported and placed in a freezer for two weeks to kill the beetles. Officers will also ensure that equipment is decontaminated prior to the final disposition of the seized equipment. Guidelines for cleaning and decontaminating water related equipment are provided in E-5-2019 A and Operational Order 113.

D. Exceptions:

In situations where officers are responding to an emergency where human life is in peril, all reasonable efforts shall be made to prevent the transportation or

introduction of an invasive species. The need to respond immediately shall be weighed against the potential threat of not conducting preventative measures of thoroughly inspecting and removing organisms from equipment.

E. Pressure washers and cleaning resources:

Officers shall know where they can find the appropriate cleaning and decontamination equipment such as washers at DNR offices or commercial washing establishments.

V. REPORTING

Officers who observe new suspected infestations of invasive species shall collect specimens, if feasible, report the location, date, and time of sample and forward to the appropriate Division of Ecological and Water Resources staff or report using the EDDMapS.org website or its associated tablet application GLEDN. Officers who are contacted by the public reporting suspected new infestations shall either make the appropriate referral or assist the reporting party in getting any sample/information to the appropriate Department of Natural Resources staff.

VI. TRAINING

All officers will be trained in the proper techniques to inspect, clean, drain, and decontaminate patrol vehicles and other recreational vehicles. Officers will also be trained on new laws and operational orders as they become enacted.

By Authority of:

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Division of Enforcement