

# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

### DIRECTIVE

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**DIRECTIVE NUMBER: E-05-24**

**SUBJECT: INVASIVE SPECIES EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES**

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/15/2024

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

APPENDIX: None

REFERENCE: E-5 A, E-5 B, Minnesota Statute 84D and DNR Operational Order 113

DISTRIBUTION: All Conservation Officers

NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

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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 for 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 and equipment and clean vehicles/equipment to reduce the threat of transporting/introducing invasive species or pathogens. Inspection and removal shall occur prior to leaving the access at a body of water or prior to leaving a work site, or intermittently while patrolling larger land areas.

In addition to the inspection/removal process, when state owned equipment have been used in areas/bodies of water with a known infestation they shall be cleaned at an appropriate location.

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Clean** - The removal of plants, invertebrates and pathogens by physical, chemical, or biological methods.
- B. **Inspect** - The visual examination of equipment for the presence or absence of invasive organisms, plants, viable plant pieces and soil.
- C. **Infested sites** - A site or area that has a known population of a listed invasive species.
- D. **Infested waters** - Waters designated by the Commissioner of Department Natural Resources that contain a population of an aquatic invasive species that could spread to other waters if use of the water and related activities are not regulated to prevent this movement.

### IV. PROCEDURES

The primary threat for movement of invasive species by officers' activities is through the movement of vehicles, (squad, OHV's, watercraft, aircraft, etc.), and associated equipment, (paddles, anchors, hip boots/waders, etc). Some unique activities such as fish stocking by aircraft will require a coordinated effort with Division of Fish and Wildlife staff. A secondary threat for movement of invasive species is the transportation of seized equipment (boats, trailers, minnow traps, nets, anchoring gear, etc). Officers shall ensure any seized equipment is inspected and organisms removed before being transported and/or the equipment is cleaned prior to the final disposition of the seized equipment. Officers shall be aware of locations where invasive species exist within their patrol area.

- A. **Sequence of Patrol Locations:**  
When reasonable, officers should sequence the areas/bodies of water they plan to patrol in an effort to patrol infested areas last. This will reduce the possibility of transporting/introducing invasive species from invested areas to non-infested areas.

B. Work sites:

Before launching/unloading at a work site, officers shall inspect for and remove all visible plants, seeds, mud, soil, and animals from equipment, to the best of their ability. Prior to leaving the access or work site officers shall inspect for and remove all visible plants, seeds, mud, soil, and animals from equipment, to the best of their ability.

C. Infested Waters:

Before launching/unloading at a work site, officers shall inspect for and remove all visible plants, seeds, mud, soil, and animals from equipment. Prior to leaving areas/bodies of water with known infestations, officers will take the necessary precautions to ensure that equipment is inspected and depending on the type of invasive species, either remove visible materials/organisms on site, or remove on site followed by cleaning equipment at a suitable location prior to the equipment being used again. Prior to leaving an aquatic work site, drain water from any equipment, tanks, or water-retaining components of boats such as the motor, live well, bilge, or transom well onto dry land.

D. Pathogens

After working on waters known to harbor pathogens of concern, clean and dry equipment prior to using in locations not known to be infested with pathogens present at the last location visited.

E. 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.

## 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. 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.

By Authority of:

Rodmen Smith

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Division Director

Division of Enforcement