

INDIANA

How to prevent Emerald Ash Borer from spreading through firewood

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By Sara Schaefer WTHI, November 24, 2014, 6:56 pm

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. – Last week News 10 told you there's more Emerald Ash Borer evidence and there may be something you can do to prevent the damage from spreading.

Last week we talked to a forester with the Vigo County Parks Department. He told us the beetles have already destroyed more than 100 trees in local parks. Today we talked to him about those infested trees in the form of firewood.

We wanted to ask him how you can make sure the wood you are buying isn't infested. Burning it is not the problem, of course that may kill the bugs. The risky part is where and how you get the wood and how you transport it.

The bugs can jump from the smallest of branches and find new homes in a pile of firewood in minutes. So he suggests making sure you know where you're getting your wood from.

"You know if you go cut your own ash tree and it's infested you take the risk of spreading EAB all along your transportation route. So that's why you want to keep it on your own property. You don't want to be spreading it around to everywhere else. You want to give people time to prepare for EAB and take the necessary steps," Adam Grossman said.

If you buy wood from out of the county and it's from a quarantine county, it can not be brought back. The best way of making sure wood is not infested is to get certified or debarked wood.

Or Grossman suggests when you buy firewood simply ask the seller if you can get wood that is not ash.