

# FIREWOOD BEST PRACTICES FOR CAMPGROUNDS



## Did you know

that by moving firewood you could be moving highly destructive forest pests?

As a campground, knowing where and how your firewood is produced and treated is vital to protect our trees and forests from pests and diseases.

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) works with producers, retailers, campground operators and the public to stop the spread of invasive forest pests. No one person or group can stop the spread of invasive forest pests – we all need to work together. With the help of a national advisory group, 'best practices' have been developed as part of the **Buy Local, Burn Local** national campaign to stop the movement of forest pests in firewood.

As an important partner, the following eight best practices have been developed with and for campgrounds to encourage responsible firewood production and sales. These best practices provide a practical checklist to help make sure you are distributing firewood that is 'invasive pest free'.

**Forest pests such as gypsy moths, emerald ash borer and the Asian long-horn beetle are often moved through firewood and can destroy Canadian forests and urban trees.**

**Canada's annual timber losses due to invasives are estimated at \$720 million**

*(Canadian Action Plan for Invasive Alien Terrestrial Plant and Plant Pests (CFIA, September, 2004) ).*

## Eight Best Practices for Campgrounds

### 1. Know before you cut and treat firewood.

Know the signs and symptoms for high risk pests in your area. Inspect standing trees often for signs of pests or infection such as exit holes in the bark. Optimal harvest time may be adjusted depending on the lifecycle of a particular pest to mitigate the spread of that pest. Tree selection should be planned prior to harvest time. For more information, visit the Canadian Forest Service's (CFS) database on Canadian pests at [tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca](http://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca). If you produce your own firewood to sell to your visitors, refer to our 'Firewood Best Practices for Producers document' for more information on treatment methods.

### 2. Purchase and sell firewood that has been heat treated.

In Canada, there is commercially heat-treated firewood available to retailers. This heat treatment ensures that there are no live larvae, diseases or pests left in the firewood. Firewood should be heat treated in a kiln to an internal temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes.

*Avoid moving firewood outside of regulated areas. Without approval, movement outside of regulated areas is prohibited, no matter the distance. Visit [www.inspection.gc.ca/firewood](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/firewood) for more information.*

### 3. Sell local firewood.

If heat treated firewood is not available, then using firewood close to where it has been harvested reduces the chances of transporting invasive pests or pathogens. Buy and sell firewood that has been produced locally or partially treated. Partial



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treatment of firewood includes bark removal and drying/seasoning. These methods are not comprehensive enough to ensure that all larvae, diseases or pests are sufficiently removed, but they can help reduce the overall amount of them residing in the wood.

#### 4. Look for certification.

If purchasing heat treated firewood, look for producers who's heat treatment practices have been certified by a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), an approved kiln evaluator. All firewood imported into Canada requires certification.\*

#### 5. Sell labelled firewood and store properly.

Keep records that show the origin of harvest, date of harvest, species harvested, and treatment method(s) used for the firewood you are selling. Firewood that has been certified and treated should be labelled and properly stored and separated from untreated firewood to prevent new infestation. If you sell local, partially or untreated firewood, include informative labeling and packaging to provide important information to retailers and consumers such as:

- a. Species of tree
- b. Where and when was the firewood harvested?
- c. What treatment method(s) were used?
- d. Was and how long was the wood seasoned for?

All firewood should be stored in a dry area protected from moisture and away from vegetation, soil and lighting. Consider adding slogans such as "**Buy Local, Burn Local**" to the label to inform consumers of best practices. \*\*

#### 6. Report infested firewood and invasive pests.

Regulated invasive pests and disease must be reported. If you suspect that some of your product may be infested by invasive pests or disease, call the CFIA at **1-800-442-2342** or visit [www.inspection.gc.ca/pests](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/pests) for more information.

*Contact your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office if you suspect that you have found a regulated pest. The CFIA will follow up and determine if further action is needed.*

#### 7. Provide staff training.

Provide information and training to your staff on the risks associated with firewood movement, and the identification features of priority invasive species. Trained staff will be better equipped to recognize and respond to infested firewood. Downloadable resources are available at [www.buylocalburnlocal.ca](http://www.buylocalburnlocal.ca).

#### 8. Communicate the risk to your customers and partners.

- a. Take pride in the steps your company is taking to reduce the spread of invasive species. Advertise your responsible firewood practices and certifications on your website and campsite.
- b. Educate your customers on the risks associated with firewood movement. Provide them with informational resources and encourage them to '**Buy Local, Burn Local**'.
- c. Educate your partners on the risks associated with firewood movement and encourage them to implement best management practices.

By volunteering to commit to these eight best practices, the CCIS would like to recognize you as an ambassador of the **Buy Local, Burn Local** campaign! Through this, you will receive formal recognition on our website, as well as resources such as posters and window decals for your retail store. For more information on how to join, visit [www.buylocalburnlocal.ca](http://www.buylocalburnlocal.ca)

*Developed in partnership by the National Firewood Working Group.*

\* Specific requirements for certification are described in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's directive D-01-12: Phytosanitary Requirements for the Importation and Domestic Movement of Firewood.<sup>1</sup>

\*\* To encourage purchase of your firewood, ensure that it is dry, clean and convenient for purchase. Alternatively, you can offer a small reward/incentive for people who demonstrate they bought locally produced wood or will buy it in the campground or park.

1 <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/directives/forestry/d-01-12/eng/1323828428558/1323828505539>