



# MOVING FIREWOOD CAN KILL TREES

## Promise not to move firewood

### Why is moving firewood such a bad idea?

Tree-killing insects and diseases can lurk in firewood. These insects and diseases can't move far on their own, but when people move firewood they can jump hundreds of miles. New infestations destroy our forests, property values, and cost huge sums of money to control.

### How far is too far to move firewood? And what do you mean by "local" firewood?

When we say local firewood, we are referring to the closest convenient source of wood that you can find. As a very general rule of thumb, 50 miles is too far, and 10 miles or less is best. In many states, including Oklahoma neighbors Colorado, Kansas and Missouri, there are rules, regulations, and quarantines that clearly state how far is too far. Some states have laws about crossing their state line with firewood, and the fines can be hefty

**Which firewood-related pests should I be concerned about in Oklahoma?** Invasive species of insects and disease have the potential to not only destroy individual trees in our urban areas but entire forests. Introduced invasive species of concern in Oklahoma are gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, and introduced wood wasp.

### Why are non-native insects and diseases so much worse than the native ones?

Native trees have defenses against the insects and diseases that they've been living with for millions of years. Likewise, native predators eat native insects and that keeps their numbers in check. Non-native insects and diseases have no

predators in their new homes, and the trees have no natural defenses against them.

### My firewood has no visible signs of insect or disease infestation. There are no bugs, holes, burrows, or sawdust. Is it OK to transport it?

Tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungus spores, can elude experts. These tiny threats are enough to destroy an entire ecosystem. Never assume wood that "looks safe" is safe to move.

**How should I dispose of my firewood if I accidentally move it a long distance?** Burn it quickly and completely. The sooner and faster you burn the wood, the less risk you'll pose to local live trees. Make sure to also rake up any dropped leaves, bark, twigs or other debris and burn them, as well.

### What can I do to reduce the threat of firewood-carrying invasive species?

- Don't Move Firewood: Buy It Where You Burn It.
- Ask your firewood seller where he/she obtained the wood. If it isn't nearby, or it is unknown, consider obtaining your wood from another firewood seller.

