

MDAR Emerald Ash Borer Alert System

Emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*, or “EAB”), an invasive tree-killing beetle from Asia, threatens valued trees and impacts community safety throughout Massachusetts. EAB feeds on ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.), which are a common component of the Commonwealth’s urban forests and rural woodlands. Infested ash trees die in 3-5 years, in many cases becoming hazards to people and property as dead trees decay and fall apart. Reaching out to communities within or near EAB infestations in a timely manner is essential to ensure that they have an opportunity to prepare for and respond to this pest. This document provides an overview of the procedure to follow if EAB is discovered in a new town within Massachusetts. It provides an outline of who should be contacted as well as what information and materials they should be given.

1) Confirm Emerald Ash Borer Detection with External Departments

External departments, including the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and USDA, will be made aware of the EAB Alert System procedure. When an infestation is confirmed in a new municipality (typically by the Department of Conservation and Recreation) or a municipality in a different state that is adjacent to Massachusetts they will alert MDAR. If the infestation is in a new county, additional confirmation by the USDA may need to be obtained before any additional steps are taken. If questions arise regarding whether a municipality is infested, or whether members of the public may be notified of this find, the DCR Forest Health Program Director should be contacted.

2) Identify Relevant Communities

When EAB is discovered in a new location in or near Massachusetts, the following communities will be contacted:

- The city/town where EAB was detected
- Any municipality directly adjacent to the town in which EAB was detected
- Adjacent communities that have already had confirmed EAB infestations may benefit from being contacted once again, depending on the extent or location of both the previous and the new infestation

3) Identify Relevant Contacts

Within the municipalities identified in Step 1, each of the following individuals should be contacted, using available phone, email, and mailing address information:

- Conservation Commission (typically through the Conservation Agent)
- Tree Warden

If either the Conservation Commission or Tree Warden of a given municipality cannot be contacted or does not exist, an attempt to reach out will be made by contacting the following:

- Department of Public Works
- Department of Parks and Recreation

If these contacts are not receptive, an attempt to reach out to the municipality through the Mayor's Office (if a city) or the Town Hall (if a town) may occur. Contact information for relevant individuals can be found in the EAB Alert Network spreadsheet.

4) Complete Initial Contact

Within one month from the confirmation of EAB in a new town, all relevant contacts identified in Step 2 will be contacted to:

- Inform them that EAB has been found in/near their community
- Ask them whether they would be interested in receiving an "EAB Preparedness Kit"
- Confirm or obtain an updated mailing address and email

5) Mail Informational Alert & EAB Preparedness Kit

Following the initial phone call, each contact will be mailed an informational alert and an Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Kit. Details of what the alert and kit should include are outlined below.

a) **Informational alert**, in letter format, addressed specifically to each individual it is sent to. The alert can be found in the EAB Alert System folder in the document titled "Alert Letter". It includes the following information:

- The new city/town where EAB was detected
- Why the recipient is being contacted (e.g. the detection was in their town, their community is at high risk, etc.)
- What emerald ash borer is and what is at risk
- An overview of the included EAB Preparedness Kit contents, highlighting the availability of free print outreach materials and opportunities to schedule presentations for staff or the public

b) **EAB Preparedness Kit**, which includes samples of the following items:

- 10 EAB ID cards
- EAB tattoo(s)
- EAB button(s)/magnet(s)
- DMF sticker(s)
- DMF pamphlet
- DMF weatherproof flyer

- USDA EAB pest alert
- USDA Forest Service “What is the Emerald Ash Borer” pamphlet
- MDAR “Dealing with Emerald Ash Borer: A Decision-Making Guide”
- MDAR “Emerald Ash Borer Identification Guide” (when available)
- MDAR “Ash Identification Guide” (when available)
- EAB Preparedness Brainstorming Exercise
- DCR Forest Pest Preparedness Template
- The latest map of Massachusetts towns currently infested with EAB which can be obtained from the DCR Forest Health Program
- A list of individuals available to schedule presentations for government staff and/or the public
- A list of free print outreach materials and link to MDAR’s online ordering form
- A list of additional online resources

6) Update Records

Within the EAB Alert Network spreadsheet, record the places and people that were contacted, the date they were contacted, and who received EAB Preparedness Kits. Any updated contact information that was collected should be recorded as well.

7) Follow-up

Within one month following the initial contact, individuals identified as contacts will be sent a brief follow-up email to confirm receipt of the mailing and to offer additional support and resources. If email contact is not available, a follow-up phone call will be made.