



LARIMER COUNTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PUBLIC WORKS POLICY AND PROCEDURE 172

SUBJECT: EMERALD ASH BORER MITIGATION

DATE: April 4, 2017

EFFECTIVE PERIOD: Until Superseded

REVIEW SCHEDULE: Every five (5) years in April, or as needed

CANCELLATIONS: None

ENCLOSURES: None

GENERAL: The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic insect pest species from Asia that has impacted native ash forests and planted urban forests throughout the eastern half of the U.S. and has been identified in 28 states from Colorado to the East Coast. EAB has established in Boulder County less than 10 miles from Larimer County.

It is highly likely that EAB will become established in Larimer County within the next five years. Once ash trees are infected with this insect pest, the tree will decline rapidly if left untreated and pose a high risk to property and bodily harm. Survival rate of infected ash trees is less than 1percent.

By taking a proactive approach, the County will conserve resources and mitigate future hazards to public safety. Few large diameter ash trees currently grow in county maintained rights-of-ways, parks or open lands. However, if left untreated, the smaller diameter trees will continue to grow and require more resources for removal and disposal in the future.

PURPOSE: To establish a procedure for proactively managing the Emerald Ash Borer's impact on Ash trees located within County maintained portions of the public rights-of-way, parks and open spaces in Larimer County prior to infestation.

RESPONSIBILITY: All County personnel involved in the removal of Ash trees within County maintained portions of the public rights-of-way, parks and open spaces are responsible for complying with this policy and procedure. The Larimer County Forester is responsible for: identification and mapping of Ash trees within County maintained public rights-of-way, parks and open spaces; determination of the "High Value" designation of Ash trees; and administration of the permit program associated with "High Value" trees.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

- I. **MITIGATION PLAN FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES:** Following the initial inventory and assessment of existing ash trees, a comprehensive mitigation plan was developed and implemented in 2016 for parks and open spaces managed by Larimer County. Of the 89 ash trees in campgrounds and parking lots, 72 (81%) were cut down, stumps treated and wood chipped into mulch. The remaining 17 ash trees that were deemed to be of "High Value" will be treated with pesticides to prevent EAB infestations in the future once EAB has been confirmed in Larimer County. To compensate for the loss of the 72 trees, 50 replacement trees will be planted in 2017. A diverse variety of species will be planted accordingly with regards to specific site conditions.
- II. **MITIGATION PLAN FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY:** In the summer of 2016 when an initial inventory was conducted, 242 ash trees were found in County maintained rights-of-ways. Based on the County Forester's recommendations, the County has chosen to take a proactive approach to mitigating future hazards and costs associated with the eventual spread of EAB in County maintained public right-of-way.

It shall be the policy of Larimer County to proactively remove all Ash trees, with the exception of those defined as "High Value", from County maintained public rights-of-way. This effort will begin in 2017 and continue until all Ash trees not designated as "High Value" are removed. This proactive removal will begin in the southern-most reaches of the county and proceed north until completion. This removal effort will be a priority of the Vegetation Management Team until completion and will be completed as quickly as resources allow. Contractors will be utilized for the removal in high risk areas (close proximity to structures, power lines, etc.) Larimer County will not replace Ash trees removed from the public right-of-way.

Planning and preservation activities shall include the following actions.

1. Identify and map the location of all Ash trees within the County maintained road rights-of-way.
2. Identify "High Value" Ash trees prior to removal. "High Value" shall be defined as Ash trees meeting all of the following criteria:
 - A. Having a breast height diameter of greater than 12-inches;
 - B. Are in good health as determined by the Larimer County Forester;
 - C. Show no signs of EAB infestation;
 - D. Lack significant defects;
 - E. Pose no threat to public safety due to their proximity to the adjacent roadway;
 - F. Do not inhibit proper maintenance operations; and
 - G. Have been accepted for maintenance by the adjacent property owner or adjacent HOA.
3. Notify adjacent property owner or Homeowners Association (HOA), in writing, of the existence of a potential "High Value" Ash tree located within the public ROW and the intended removal of the Ash tree a minimum of 60 days in advance of removal.

Upon notification of intended removal of the potential "High Value" Ash tree, the adjacent property owner or HOA must contact the Larimer County Forester within 30

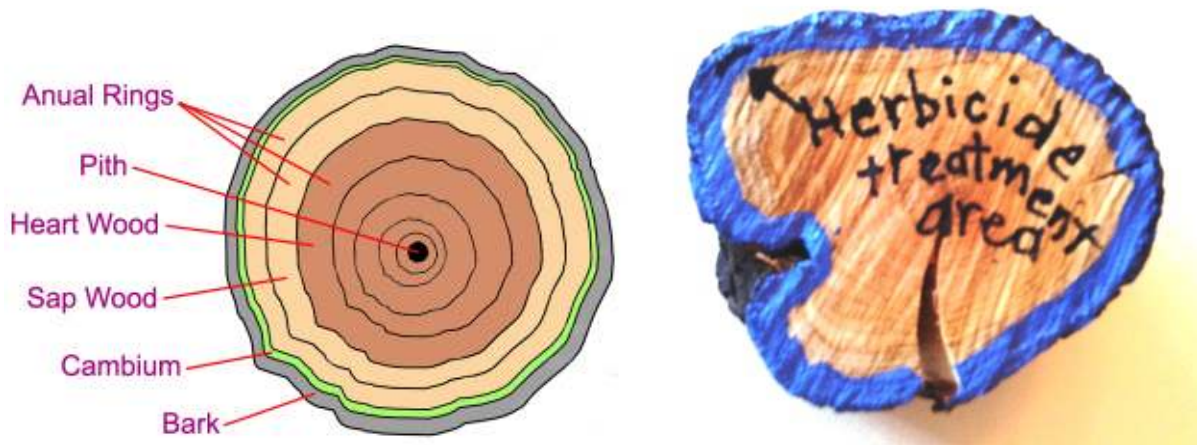
days of receiving the written notice to convey their intent to pursue tree preservation. Failure to contact the County Forester within 30 days may result in tree removal.

The entity wishing to preserve the “High Value” Ash tree will be required to sign a permit stating they are taking responsibility for all costs associated with tree preservation and future tree removal including disposal of the tree debris in accordance with Colorado Department of Agriculture and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Once EAB is confirmed in Larimer County, the permittee will be required to hire a licensed tree service contractor to perform the insecticidal treatment of the Ash tree at the product labeled frequency and deliver a copy of the treatment record, following each treatment, to the Larimer County Forester as proof of treatment. All insecticidal treatments to manage EAB must be pre-approved by the County Forester. All treatment records shall be submitted within 30 days post treatment. Trees that miss a treatment cycle will be removed by Larimer County with all associated costs billed to the permittee.

III. ASH TREE REMOVAL

1. Final cut shall be made a close to ground level as practical.
2. Within 10 minutes of making the final cut, a dyed herbicide shall be applied to the cut stump, including the following actions:
 - A. Remove all sawdust from the cut stump; and
 - B. Apply herbicide to the cambium area of the stump as described below.



(For ash trees removed by County forces, herbicide shall be obtained from the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, weeds workgroup and shall be applied in accordance with manufactures recommendations and per guidance from the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources.)

3. Stumps will not be ground unless they pose a maintenance problem or public safety hazard.

IV. ASH TREE DISPOSAL

Trees removed prior to the Emerald Ash Borer being confirmed in Larimer County will have no restrictions on transportation and disposal.

Disposal of trees removed subsequent to the Emerald Ash Borer being confirmed in Larimer County and quarantine areas being established may be regulated by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Larimer County will comply with current regulations with respect to transportation and disposal of Ash tree material including obtaining a Compliance Agreement with CDA and USDA APHIS.