

Emerald Ash Borer

Safety meeting
presentation



What is it?

- Bottom line....Invasive beetle from Asia that kills all species of ash trees





Movement of EAB regulated articles cannot exit
Federal quarantine boundaries without Federal permits.

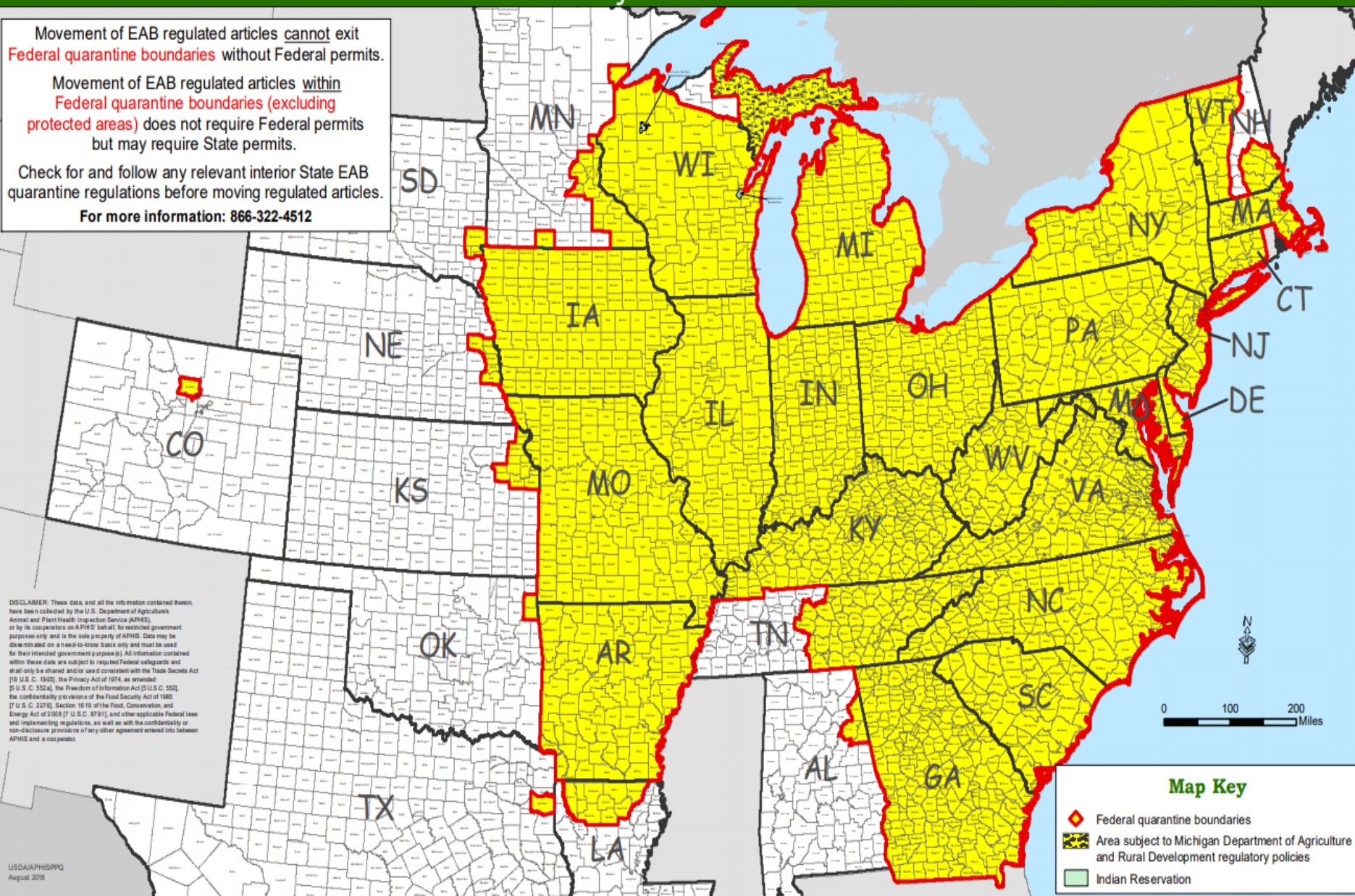
Movement of EAB regulated articles within
Federal quarantine boundaries (excluding
protected areas) does not require Federal permits
but may require State permits.

Check for and follow any relevant interior State EAB
quarantine regulations before moving regulated articles.

For more information: 866-322-4512

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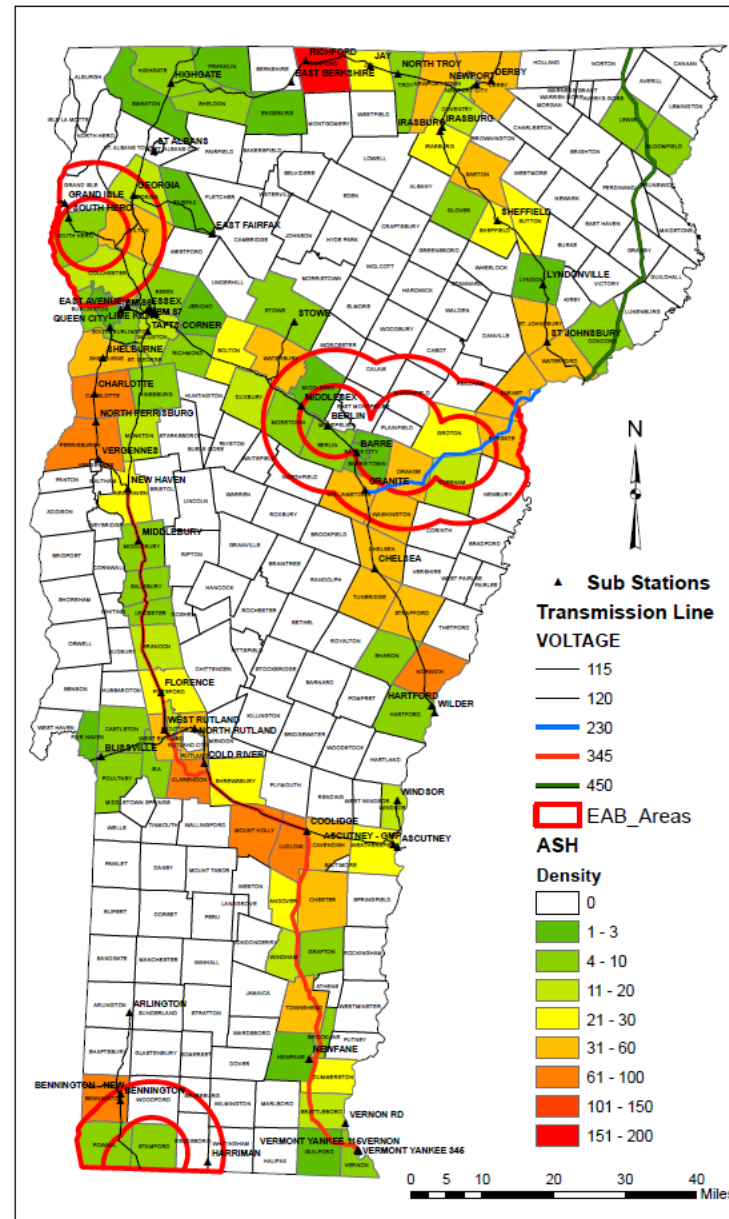
USDA/APHIS/PPQ
August 2018



Map Key

- Federal quarantine boundaries
- Area subject to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development regulatory policies
- Indian Reservation

Ash Danger Tree Density By Town 2011-2018



What we are doing to scope the problem

1. Gathering info to develop management strategies from peers
 - NATF, NGRID, ATC, VT State Forest and Parks Dept., GMP, VEC
2. Developed an “in-house” tool
 - Establish volume of danger ash trees
 - Track infested trees
 - Develop inventory criteria
3. Foot/aerial patrol of infested and high risk areas

Safety Considerations

- Safety Concern
 - Struck-by #1 cause of fatality due to ash trees
 - Trees are unpredictably failing
 - Behave completely different from an healthy ash
 - Trees snap from or close to the base
 - Increased risk of failure in wind, snow and ice
 - Dead trees shatter when felled
 - Unsafe for employees/contractors





Cost considerations

- 10-15% of Vermont's trees are ash
 - Some areas more, i.e. islands.
- Using LiDar metrics
 - ~30,000-40,000 trees system wide tall enough to hit (all species)
 - 3,500-5,250 ash tree hitters today
 - Will increase volume of danger tree removals, which are currently at \$150/tree
- Demand for resources could increase costs and limit response actions

Safety Actions

- Develop special trainings
- Establish new work guidelines for assessing trees
- Continue to coordinate with NATF, VT partners and contractors
- Seek to proactively remove trees before becoming impacted

Cost Management Actions

- Complete development of impact assessment tool
- Incorporate work into established cycles
- Seek to remove trees before infestation occurs
 - Allow for a reduction in costs up to 50%
 - Removal of dead trees could be double the costs
- Response actions included in 2019 budget
 - Future work will require budget increases to cover additional work, estimated at \$250K/yr
 - Continue to seek savings in other program areas

Next Steps

- Use scoping tool and share with DUs for possible use
- Continue to participate on VTF&P coordination calls
 - An utility working group may be needed to:
 - Coordinate resources
 - Lessons learned
 - Share information
 - Align outreach materials to stakeholders