

# First Emerald Ash Borer Interception

Around 4 p. m. on July 13, 2010, a pick-up truck pulling a recreational trailer rolled in the Topaz station and was greeted by inspector Susan Greenhouse. She noticed that the vehicle had Michigan plates and proceeded to inform the travelers they originated from a federally regulated Gypsy Moth area, requiring her to initiate an inspection of the truck and trailer. Supervisor Shurtleff stayed after his shift and redirected traffic to accommodate this inspection.

Upon opening the pick-up truck's tonneau cover, Greenhouse discovered the travelers had transported a mix of hardwood, ash and oak, from Michigan to be used as firewood. She quickly noticed the pieces of wood had several bore holes.

Greenhouse explained to the owner the potential risks to California from wood-dwelling invasive species and confiscated 25 pieces of wood from the



An EAB shown above was one out of the three dead adults found, along with six dead EAB larva and one EAB pupa.

travelers under federal domestic quarantine code 301.45.

With the help of station manager Christopher Friedman, several specimens were found in the firewood. Sacramento lab

identified the specimens as A-rated Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

The beetles are highly destructive and threaten a whole North American *Fraxinus* genus. EABs damage the xylem and phloem tissues of the trees. A tell-tale sign of an EAB infestation is D-shaped holes in the wood. According to the USDA, EAB have been found and positively identified mainly in the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois.

This is the very first incident of an EAB interception in the state of California.

Topaz Station proved that with teamwork and a little extra effort, a great find is just one car away!

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