The emerald ash borer is a destructive invasive insect from Asia. It was found in Merrimack County in late March, 2013 and has now been recorded in Rockingham and Hillsborough County as well.

Detection of emerald ash borer results in state and federal quarantines to reduce movement of this destructive forest pest and to slow ash mortality.

Emerald ash borer spends most of its life cycle under the bark of ash trees making it an invisible pest until it has been established long enough to kill the host tree (3-5 years).

Emerald ash borer is most widely spread when people move ash wood products in which ash borer eggs, larvae, and pupae are living—such as hardwood firewood, logs, chips, green lumber, and nursery stock.

There is a quarantine in place for Merrimack, Rockingham, and Hillsborough Counties prohibiting the movement of hardwood firewood, ash logs, ash chips, ash green lumber and ash nursery stock, and other ash products from these counties unless the product has been certified as processed to reduce the risk of spreading emerald ash borer.

Because of this quarantine, arborists may be leaving some regulated wood articles (ash chips or firewood length logs) at job sites in quarantined counties as a part of tree-clearing operations. It is a violation of the emerald ash borer quarantine to move these chips or hardwood firewood out of quarantined counties unless they have been processed by a state or federally-approved facility. If you have any questions regarding the emerald ash borer quarantine, please visit: www.nhbugs.org or call 271-2561.