

About the Firewood Task Force

The California Firewood Task Force came about through a resolution passed by the California Forest Pest Council in November 2010. Pests such as the Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer are established in other states and would cause great harm if they became established in California. The gold spotted oak borer, sudden oak death, and pitch canker are invasive pests that are established in parts of California and would cause additional harm if they became established in other parts of the state. Resource management professionals and scientists recognize that transport of firewood is one of the principal means by which many invasive pests are spread from one area to another. The Pest Council resolution highlighted this threat and called for the formation of a California-wide task force to address the issue.

Status

Organization of the Task Force began in January 2011 and its first meeting was held a month later. The California Firewood Task Force is a coalition of agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders working to protect the state's forests and natural environments from invasive pests that can be moved on firewood. Similar efforts are underway throughout the United States. Those interested in cooperating with or participating in the Task Force are encouraged to contact us.

Mission Statement

The California Firewood Task Force initiates and facilitates efforts within the state to protect our native and urban forests from invasive pests that can be moved on firewood.

This is accomplished by

- Engaging concerned stakeholders

- Synthesizing, evaluating, and publicizing relevant information

- Developing and publicizing appropriate outreach materials and best management practices

- Identifying and supporting appropriate research, management, and educational programs

- Coordinating with similar efforts in other states and at the national level.

List of Participating Agencies / Organizations

The following agencies and organizations are represented on the California Firewood Task Force:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Forest Pest Council
California Oak Mortality Task Force
Goldspotted Oak Borer Program
Riverside County Agriculture Department
US Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Services
US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
US Department of the Interior, National Park Service
University of California