Emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations are guaranteed to generate dead ash trees and wood waste. Live life stages of emerald ash borer may be hidden within this waste material and pose a risk of spreading the infestation. How you handle and manage this waste is an important part of reducing the spread of this destructive beetle.

Timing of activities: EAB adults begin to emerge mid-June and are active into September. The optimal time to do a removal of infested ash material would be autumn-early winter. Adults are not active or mobile during this time and developing larvae are trapped within their slowly drying resource. Keep in mind that while this will reduce the probability of moving emerald ash borer, it will not eliminate it as late stage EAB-immatures do not feed.

Chip or mulch it: You can reduce the risk of spreading EAB by chipping ash waste as both the mechanics and the heat generated by the chipping process can kill life stages of EAB. Using these chips on site is recommended.

Keep it local: Reduce your spread of EAB by keeping waste material local (on site or within 5 miles of the site). It can be chipped on site, used as local firewood, or taken to a local mill.

Season ash firewood on site for at least a year: Studies conducted in New Hampshire demonstrate that aging ash firewood on site for a year before moving it dramatically reduces the risk of spreading EAB. The study was conducted with infested ash trees that were processed into green firewood and then aged. Timing of the harvest matters, however, and it is important to note that material harvested in the autumn or winter needs to age through the next summer before being transported in order to achieve optimal results. Some native wood borers will lay eggs in cut and split firewood. Wood aged for more than a year is not necessarily insect-free, but it is likely to be EAB-free.

When time is of the essence: It is highly recommended that transportation of ash logs or green ash firewood is local during the flight season (June—August). Where this is not possible, it is recommended that the processor receiving logs aggressively de-bark upon receipt, and destroy the waste through chipping or burning in order to reduce the risk of spreading this pest.

Emerald ash borer is difficult to detect, especially early in the infestation. This is the best current information on EAB in NH. The map of active infestations will change with new detections of emerald ash borer. Status of towns is on the reverse. Please visit www.nhbugs.org regularly.