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# *News Release*

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*For Immediate Release*

## **EMERALD ASH BORER CONFIRMED IN WELLAND, ONTARIO**

**Ottawa**, June 4, 2009 – The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Welland, Ontario. The infested trees are located in the Carl Road and Darby Road area. The emerald ash borer poses no risk to human or animal health.

The CFIA will be carrying out increased surveying of trees in the area to determine the extent of the infestation. Affected property owners will be notified. Regulatory measures to control this pest will be taken based on information obtained through the surveys.

The EAB is a destructive beetle that has already killed a large number of ash trees in Ontario and north eastern U.S. It poses a major economic threat to urban and forested areas of North America. There have been numerous finds of this pest in Ontario and in one location in Quebec. The CFIA continues to work with its partners and stakeholders towards the goal of slowing its spread.

The emerald ash borer does not spread quickly on its own. The key to limiting the spread of this beetle is to get people to stop moving potentially infested ash materials - such as logs, branches, nursery stock, wood chips, and firewood of all species - to non-infested locations. Area residents can play a key role in helping to control EAB by avoiding actions that would promote its spread.

We all have a responsibility to protect Canada's forests.

Additional information is available on the CFIA web site at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) or by calling 1-866-463-6017.

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## **Background**

The emerald ash borer was first discovered in Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan in 2002. It is believed that it was introduced to North America from eastern Asia in wooden packaging materials in the early 1990's, but went undetected until its population built up to damaging levels.

Since then, infestations have been detected and regulated areas have been created to control this pest in the City of Toronto, the City of Hamilton, and the regions of Halton, Peel, York and Durham; Essex County and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent; Lambton County; Elgin County; Middlesex County; Norfolk County; Sault Ste. Marie; Ottawa and its neighbouring city of Gatineau, Quebec; and the city of Carignan, Quebec including the cities of Chambly, Richelieu, Saint-Basile-le-Grand and the municipality of Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu.

Regulatory measures are also in place for specific properties in Huron County, Ontario.

Regulatory measures prohibit the movement of ash tree materials and firewood of any species without prior permission from the CFIA. The aim is to control the movement of potentially infested materials in order to slow the spread of EAB to new areas. Those who move regulated materials from regulated areas without the permission of the CFIA could face fines and/or prosecution.