Alberta Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Response Plan

This response plan is a guide to help responsible authorities mount an effective response to a DED event as quickly as possible. A rapid, effective, timely response to a DED finding is in keeping with the requirement of the Agricultural Pest Act (APA) since DED and elm bark beetle are named declared pests. All municipalities, counties and MDs in the province of Alberta have the responsibility and authority to prevent and control DED under the APA. **APA @https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a08** **PNCR @ https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2001_184**

In advance of a DED event, it is recommended to know who, in your municipality, are designated under the APA to enforce the DED Prevention/Control Measures and have them trained to be able to identify elm wood and DED symptoms. The APA Section 10 (1) requires pest inspectors to be appointed in each municipality. This municipal appointment can be given to any existing municipal staff. Agricultural fieldman, community peace officer and a municipal officer that has dual municipal and provincial appointments are also designated to enforce the DED Prevention/Control Measure under the APA.

For additional information refer to the **DED Prevention/Control Measures and Responsibilities and Authority under the APA @ https://open.alberta.ca/publications/dutch-elm-disease-prevention-control-measures-responsibilities-authority-apa**

Risk Category	***Criteria***	***Response***
1	Absence of DED	• Understand municipality DED prevention/control responsibilities under the APA. • Become familiar with the DED Prevention/Control Measures, APA and PNCR Form 2. • Know who in your municipality can enforce the DED Prevention/Control Measures. • Appoint pest inspectors under the APA. • Train staff/inspectors/officers to recognize DED symptoms and elm firewood. • Enforce prohibition on elm pruning from April 1 to September 30 using PNCR Form 2. • Enforce prohibition on storage of elm wood using PNCR Form 2. • Collect and inspect elm materials for (elm bark beetle) EBB activity and dispose. • Designate an elm wood disposal site where wood may be burned or buried. • Inform the public on location of elm wood disposal site. • Place and maintain EBB pheromone traps, as needed, to detect new and changes to populations of EBB. • To understand where more intensive monitoring and surveillance is necessary an updated inventory for public elm trees is recommended to include location, size and health. • Work with and encourage property owners to do an elm inventory. • Sample symptomatic elms and submit to the provincial lab. • Public awareness in form of public communication/education programs on elm pruning ban, elm wood storage and disposal, recognizing DED signs/symptoms, importance of maintaining tree health, risks of transporting firewood, where to report DED suspect trees.

2	Presence of DED	**Once a sample has been confirmed positive for DED by the provincial lab, all action in this section should be immediate and focus initially on the area within a 1 km radius bubble[1] of the positive tree. If resources allow, this area can be expanded.**
		
		• Remove all positive elm tree or trees including the stumps. If there are multiple incidences of DED infected trees throughout the municipality, each location should be treated as a bubble.
		• Inspect the bark on branches and trunk of removed elm trees for elm bark beetle activity. Peel back the bark to expose any beetle galleries and look for beetles. Photograph beetle gallery pattern and collect beetles to have identified.
		• Be aware that the roots of adjacent elm trees may have grafted to the roots of the infected tree, allowing the fungus to pass between them. These trees must be watched closely for symptoms of DED. To be safe, adjacent trees may be considered for immediate removal along with the confirmed infected tree.
		• Sample all suspect elm trees immediately surrounding the positive tree.
		• Survey within the bubble of private and public trees for DED symptoms along with an intensive search for elm wood and other sources of possible beetle infestation such as dead and dying elm trees.
		• Enforce prohibition on storage of elm wood using PNCR Form 2.
		• Remove and dispose of any elm wood found in the bubble immediately.
		• Place additional elm bark beetle traps in the area to monitor bark beetle populations and detect new and/or changes to populations of elm bark beetles.
		• While doing the surveillance within the bubble supply home owners' information to include:
		  • Reasons for the intensive survey
		  • A copy of the DED Prevention/Control Measures which are enforceable under the APA
		  • Numbers to call to report elm firewood violations and symptomatic trees
		• Public Service Announcement to inform the general public about the DED positive tree and advice on what they can do to help stop the spread.
		• Once the bubble area has been surveyed it is recommended to increase surveillance of elms outside the initial bubble to ensure that the infections are not more widespread.
		
		1 City of Saskatoon Response Plan (1 km radius bubble)

3	Post Presence of DED (2 years)	• Annual follow-up of the DED infected bubble with search for elm wood and symptomatic trees. • Evaluate cost of management. • Return to risk category 1