

Is There a Killer Lurking in Your Firewood?

Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) *Agrilus auroguttatus* is an invasive pest contributing to the on-going oak tree mortality occurring on federal, state, private, and local Native American lands in many areas of Southern California. Isolated areas of infestation have been confirmed in Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties in Southern California. **GSOB was detected in more than one area near Big Bear last month.** Widespread oak mortality can have severe implications to the environment and human safety. Due to the current and potential impacts to California oaks and communities, public and private organizations are working together in the research, education and outreach efforts related to GSOB management.

A special public workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 9th at the Lake Gregory Education / Community Center, 24740 San Moritz Way, Crestline, 5:00pm**, to provide the general public with information about this invasive and devastating pest. **This GSOB workshop will be followed by a Wildfire Prevention & Preparedness meeting at 6:30pm.**



The beetles aggressively attack California black oaks, coast live oaks and canyon live oaks. Dead trees can also increase risk of fire danger. Selling fire wood from the downed dead oaks helps the beetle move from community to community.

While the beetle is native to Arizona, but is believed to have traveled first to San Diego County and then Riverside and now up to the San Bernardino mountains via infested fire wood.

Come to the workshop to learn more about the beetle, how to identify it or evidence it has attacked your trees and what the USFS, CAL FIRE, other local authorities and organizations are doing to address it.

More workshops are being planned across the mountain, including one on Saturday, October 19th in Big Bear. Visit www.MountainRimFSC.org for more workshop details.

For more info about the GSOB, visit www.GSOB.org.