

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING BARK BEETLE INFESTED WOOD**

Community members must recognize the serious issue facing pine trees in Wrightwood. Dead/dying trees and firewood cannot be handled as they have been in the past. Leftover debris and firewood piles are a major breeding ground for bark beetles!

This is an escalating issue attributed to several years of drought stressed trees, mild winters and an exploding population of bark beetles.

All dead/dying trees that are cut must be chipped or tented onsite with six mil clear plastic ASAP to help prevent further spread of bark beetles to residual trees. Chips must be hauled to the landfill or spread onsite to a 2-3" chip depth layer. Chips must be kept 3' away from the base of residual trees to prevent tree decay.

Keeping bark beetle infested firewood without properly tenting in clear plastic, enables the bark beetle population to infest other nearby trees which they use as their next host tree and kill it through this process.

Please follow the guidelines on the back of this page to help prevent additional tree mortality.

For further information about current bark beetle activity visit the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council website at:  
[www.wrightwoodfsc.com](http://www.wrightwoodfsc.com)



# Bark Beetle Management in Logs and Firewood



## Firewood Tarping

Tarping and sealing wood piles with clear plastic is a very effective way to prevent the emergence of beetles from wood. This technique will also prevent them from colonizing freshly cut uninfested wood. Firewood seasoned in this manner will not support beetle colonization. Any beetle brood present in the wood when it is tarped will be killed. Wood that is tarped dries more rapidly. To properly tarp a wood pile you will need the following materials: Six mil clear plastic sheeting of a size sufficient to cover your wood pile. This material is available in various sizes at most hardware supply stores.

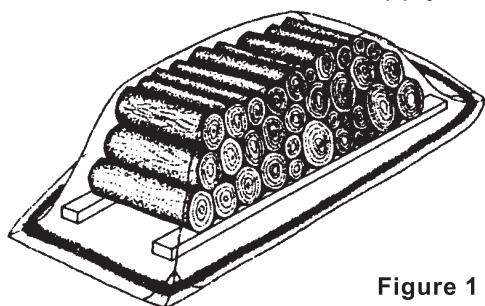


Figure 1

**Do not use black plastic because beetles are attracted to folded areas that are lighter in color and they chew through it.**

- » Lumber such as 2X4's to use as runners to keep the wood off the ground.
- » An old tarpaulin, carpet, cardboard, automobile tires or similar material to protect the plastic from tearing.
- » Soil, gravel or other material to seal the plastic along the ground.

Figure 1 is an example of how to stack the wood. Use these examples and the following procedures to tarp it:

1. The wood stack can be any size provided it can be covered by a single sheet of plastic that will allow for 12 inches of overlap along the ground.
2. To aid in drying, keep the wood off the ground by stacking it on 2X4 runners. Placing the stack in partial sunlight will reduce drying time, minimize the breakdown of non-UV resistant plastic and render the wood unsuitable for beetle breeding.
3. Prior to covering the stack, make sure there are no sharp pro-

jections which could pierce the plastic. Place a tarpaulin, cardboard, automobile tires (see diagrams) or similar material over the top of the stack to protect the plastic.

4. Cover the stack with plastic allowing 12 inches of material to overlap along the ground (see diagram).
5. Seal overlap against the ground with soil, gravel or similar material. Tarp must be sealed entirely around the stack.
6. After sealing, the plastic may become tightly stretched over the



wood stack. If this occurs, gently pull up on the plastic allowing 2-3 inches of slack to relieve strain. This will reduce punctures and tears. If the plastic is held too firmly against the bark, tarpaulin, cardboard or other materials, bee-

tles will get between that material and the plastic and escape by chewing their way out. This would necessitate retarping the wood.

7. Inspect tarping frequently for damage. Repair small holes and tears with duct tape. Larger tears may require retarping.

California five-spined ips bark beetles have the most generations in a year in Southern California. It is recommended to keep the infested wood covered to manage for this species of beetle since it has the most generations. Based on the ips life cycle, wood should be kept covered for certain durations depending on when the tree is cut. Wood cut between:

- Oct 1-Apr 30 should remain covered until Jul 1. This contains all the first-generation beetles which is crucial for the ips beetle.
- May 1-Jul 31 should remain covered until Sept 30. This covers two generation times.
- Aug 1-Sep 30 should remain covered until Nov 30. Nov 30 is at the end of the flight period for this generation which extends into late Dec. By late Nov, you have already contained peak adult emergence.