
NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Angeles National Forest



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RELEASE DATE: November 12, 2019

Goldspotted Oak Borer Discovered in Wrightwood in San Bernardino County near the Los Angeles County Line

Forest and Fire Officials Ask For The Public's Help to Stop Pest's Spread

Wrightwood - The Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB), *Agrilus auroguttatus*, an invasive beetle native to southeastern Arizona that can kill oaks native to California, has been detected in recently-killed California black oak trees, *Quercus kelloggii*, in the unincorporated San Bernardino County community of Wrightwood. One of the Directors of the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council, familiar with GSOB, made the initial discovery in Wrightwood and reported the infestation to the CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit Forester. The presence of GSOB was confirmed by a U.S. Forest Service entomologist who identified numerous GSOB produced D-shaped exit holes on infested trees in the area.

The Wrightwood detection represents the third infestation found in San Bernardino County since the initial discovery of GSOB in the Oak Glen area in the fall of 2018, and the subsequent discovery of GSOB in the Sugarloaf area of Big Bear in the summer of 2019. As with the two previous infestations in San Bernardino County, it is believed this GSOB infestation resulted from GSOB-infested oak firewood being brought into Wrightwood. Officials are urging the public to take critical precautions to avoid transporting infested oak firewood to other uninfested areas. These websites provide information on how to avoid buying or transporting infested firewood:

- <http://firewood.ca.gov>
- <https://www.dontpackapest.com/>

Any community or area that has coast live oaks (*Q. agrifolia*), California black oaks or canyon live oaks (*Q. chrysolepis*) is vulnerable to GSOB infestation. Communities with significant oak populations include the San Bernardino mountain communities and surrounding national forest lands. CAL FIRE, the San Bernardino and Angeles national forests, and local agencies and groups are collaborating to develop a response plan for GSOB in Wrightwood and San Bernardino County. In the interim, at-risk communities should become familiar with the GSOB threat, prevention measures, how to detect and report suspected GSOB, rapid response planning and infestation management at www.gsob.org.