



## STATE OF OHIO

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CLERMONT COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH STORM DAMAGE TO TREES ENCOURAGED TO CHECK FOR SIGNS OF ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE** *Trees Already Weakened by ALB More Susceptible to Damage*

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Mar. 3, 2012) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are encouraging homeowners in and near the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) quarantine areas in Monroe and Tate townships in Clermont County to check downed limbs and trees for signs of ALB infestation and report them.

“Trees and limbs that have already been weakened by damage from ALB are more susceptible to damage in strong storms,” said Matt Beal, chief of the ODA Division of Plant Health. “We are encouraging anyone who lives in and around Bethel and Amelia to look closely at trees and limbs brought down by the storm for signs of ALB infestation and to report findings to the program office.”

Signs of infestation include severed trunks or branches with larval tunneling, perfectly round exit holes (about 3/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter) made by adult beetles when they emerge from trees; the pockmarks on tree trunks and branches where female beetles deposit eggs; frass (wood shavings and saw dust) produced by larvae feeding and tunneling; dead branches, and running sap produced by the tree at the egg laying sites, or in response tunneling.

Starting March 3, in an effort to help with storm cleanup, the ALB marshaling yard, located at 2896 State Route 232 in Bethel will have extended hours, open daily from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The site is open to contractors with a valid compliance agreement, as well as to all municipal and state cleanup crews. All woody debris that cannot be chipped on site must be taken to the ALB marshaling yard for proper disposal.

If residents in the regulated area wish to hire, at their own expenses, a contractor to pick up storm debris please be sure to hire only ALB certified companies. Christine Markham, national director of the APHIS ALB eradication program said, “When hiring an independent company, it’s vital that they be certified to work in the regulated area, which is quarantined for ALB.”

To find out if the company you are hiring is certified, or to report signs or symptoms of ALB damage, contact the ALB Eradication Program office at 513-381-7180. Companies that are not under compliance must call the ALB Eradication Program office at 513-381-7180 to be certified to handle ALB regulated material.

For additional information on the quarantine areas in Clermont County, an area-wide map reflecting current program information, including the initial removal area and infested trees identified, is available online at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/asian\\_lhb/alb\\_maps.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/alb_maps.shtml).