



Welcome to the Vermont Forest Pest First Detector (FPFD) Network! FPFD volunteers are on the front line of defense against pest infestations and we are happy to have you join our team! Early detection and preparedness is crucial to minimizing the economic and ecological impact of invasive forest pests in Vermont. Since 2008, over 160 people across the state have completed the training and become Forest Pest First Detectors. The **goal of this program** is to train volunteers:

- 1) To inform the public about the tangible threat invasive forests pests pose
- 2) Prepare their communities to respond to infestations
- 3) Monitor for infestations at the local level
- 4) Act as a liaison between their community and the state agencies and organizations that are monitoring for these pests

Purpose: In the event of an invasive forest pest infestation in Vermont, municipalities and private land owners need to be prepared to manage and monitor the pest locally. Forest Pest First Detector Volunteers assist communities in preparing for and responding to the introduction of invasive forest pests by serving as the local liaison between residents and municipal government officials and boards, as well as state agencies and partner organizations.

Ways to get involved:

- Host outreach events (tabling at town meeting, submitting articles to local newspapers, neighborhood forums, sharing information at recreation sites, etc)
- Assist your community in preparing for an infestation. This may include sharing information with town officials to aid in planning for the arrival of a pest in their community and helping to create a community preparedness and response plan.
- Conduct surveys in targeted areas, such as along roads, parks, town forests or recreational paths in your community/region.
- Monitor traps for insects

Basic Skills and Requirements:

- Able to identify (or learn) common tree species.
- Able to visit sites and collect samples, if necessary.
- Have regular access to the Internet and e-mail.

Location: First Detectors will be asked to sign up for at least one Vermont town.



Commitment: First Detectors are asked to commit to a one year term. After the one year term expires, participants will have an opportunity to continue or discontinue. As needed, participants are expected to respond to requests for assistance from the program coordinator and partner organization staff, as well as requests from the public.

Benefits of Being a FPFV Volunteer:

- Opportunity to participate in trainings, research projects, and other professional development activities.
- Opportunity to engage with your municipal leadership and citizens to foster forest stewardship and awareness of invasive forest pests.
- Receive bi-weekly updates & have access to up-to-date information on forest pests threatening VT's forests.

The Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Program is a partnership between:

The University of Vermont Extension
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Vermont Agency of Agriculture
Vermont USDA APHIS PPQ

