



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) Screen potential pest sightings
- 3) Prepare their communities for a response in the event of an infestation
- 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:**

- Assist partners with site visits and sample collection, as requested/needed.
- Host outreach events (tabling at town meeting, submitting articles to local newspapers, neighborhood forums, 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 campgrounds, along streets, and industrial parks, in your community/region.

**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.
- Report invasive pest related activities to VT Urban & Community Forestry Program quarterly.

**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.

**Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator:**

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**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

