

*Revised Build-up  
# 001469*

The Southern Pine Beetle Technical Advisory Committee (SPBTAC) proposes that the City of Gainesville Commission formally request that the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) declare an Emergency Situation, due to the current southern pine beetle epidemic, and support the following proposed procedures for controlling threatening infestations which are not being controlled in a timely and/or appropriate manner.

#### Proposal for Declaration of Emergency Procedures:

Proposal: The Southern Pine Beetle Technical Advisory Committee (SPBTAC) proposes the City of Gainesville Commission give authority to the SPBTAC to seek Declarations of Emergencies for properties where no action has been taken to bring infestations under control.

At the time the Division of Forestry identifies infested trees on a property, they will leave notification that the property owner has ten days to either render the trees incapable of spreading the infestation or produce a signed contract from a private company confirming that employees will perform whatever work is required to remove the pest from the property by a certain date. If the property is not owner occupied, a certified letter will be sent by the Division of Forestry communicating the same information. These letters will request that the property owner call the Division of Forestry as soon as the trees have been rendered incapable of spreading the infestation.

At the end of ten days, the Division of Forestry will return to the site and determine whether the infestation potential of the property has been neutralized. If pines on the site are still capable of spreading the infestation, then the property will be proposed to the Southern Pine Beetle Technical Advisory Committee (SPBTAC) or a subcommittee duly authorized by the SPBTAC for a Declaration of Emergency. If the SPBTAC decides such action is warranted, voucher samples will be taken by the Division of Plant Industry and a letter will be sent to the Commissioner of Agriculture asking for a Declaration of Emergency on the Property. If the Commissioner agrees, then an Immediate Final Order will be issued to the property owner to treat whatever pines are necessary to control the infestation. The property owner will then have five days to appeal this order. If no appeal is filed, then the Division of Plant Industry will hire a contractor to treat such pines as are necessary to suppress the infestation on the offending property.