

# Sudden Oak Death Best Management Practices in Zone Of Infestation Regulated Areas

**Assembled by the Management Committee of COMTF, 2002**

## 1. Mitigation Measures to prevent the spread of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) pathogen during Tree Removal or Pruning Operations in SOD Infested Counties.

**Regulation:** The pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, can be spread via host material. Therefore, plants, plant parts, unprocessed wood and wood products, and other products of the above mentioned hosts *may not be moved* within or from counties infested with SOD without authorization of the local County Agricultural Commissioner. See <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/cdfa/pendingregs/> for further information.

Infected foliage of a number of host plants presents a high risk for pathogen spread. Spread of the pathogen can occur through the transport of infected host foliage.

The SOD fungus resides in soil in infested areas and soil is therefore a potential carrier of the pathogen. The greatest threat of pathogen spread occurs when wet soil is present. Currently, soil movement is not regulated.

Mitigation measures to prevent the spread of SOD are warranted in the following situations:

- *Tree removal and pruning of non-host trees from infested sites.* Regulations do not apply if host material is not being moved from the harvest area. However, infected host material (especially foliage) and contaminated soil could be picked-up on tree removal and pruning equipment and transferred to other sites. Mitigation measures to minimize the unintended movement of host material and soil would be appropriate. See mitigation measures section below for a more thorough discussion.
- *Tree removal and pruning in an infested site where infected trees will be harvested or pruned.* Regulations apply. Host material should not leave the site except as authorized by the County Agricultural Commissioner and/or mitigation measures approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). There is a danger that infected host material (especially foliage) and contaminated soil will be picked-up on tree cutting and handling equipment and transferred to other sites. Mitigation measures to minimize the unintended movement of host material and soil would be appropriate.
- *Tree removal and pruning on a site that is not known to be infested, but is in an infested county and contains susceptible host plants.* If the harvest area is within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of a known infested area, then the tree removal area is considered to be infested and tree removal and pruning operations are conducted accordingly. For other tree removal and pruning areas, a detection survey must be conducted to

determine if SOD is present. Consult with CDF and/or the Agricultural Commissioner for survey and sampling protocols. If hosts with SOD symptoms are found and the pathogen is confirmed, the site would be added to the list of infested sites and tree removal and pruning operations conducted accordingly.

## **2. Mitigation measures to minimize the unintended movement of host material and soil from infested areas:**

- Inform personnel that they are working in a SOD-infested area, unauthorized movement of plant material is prohibited, and the intent of mitigation measures is to prevent spread of the pathogen. Non-English speaking tree workers should be provided translation or written materials in appropriate language explaining mitigation measures.
- If some sites in the general operating area are found to be pathogen-free or have a low incidence of the pathogen, initiate and complete operations on these sites before moving to more heavily infested sites.
- Because wet soil and mud will readily adhere to vehicles, equipment, and boots: conduct operations during the dry season; utilize paved and graveled roads to the extent possible.
- Locate landings, log decks, roads, skid trails, chipping sites and other sites of equipment activity away from host plants, especially areas with symptomatic trees. Route equipment away from host plants and trees, especially areas with symptomatic trees.
- After working in an infested area, remove or wash-off accumulations of plant debris (especially foliage), soil, and mud from shoes, boots, vehicles and heavy equipment, etc. before traveling to an area that is not infested with SOD. Consider establishing an equipment power wash station. The station should be:
  - a. located within the generally infested area
  - b. paved or rocked
  - c. well-drained so that vehicles exiting the station do not become contaminated by the wash water.
- Pay particular attention to locations where plant debris and soil may accumulate and blow off or clean vegetative material from equipment. Consider cleaning tools and equipment, also boots with Lysol, Phisan, denatured alcohol or similar materials.
- After cleaning host debris from equipment, cut or chip non-host material to further clean the equipment of host debris.

If planning work in an area that is not infested with SOD, make sure that vehicles and equipment coming from an infested area are washed prior to entering the area that is not infested.