

With more than a million acres of susceptible oaks in southern California and millions more acres throughout the state, communities are encouraged to work collectively to develop prevention, monitoring, and response plans before GSOB strikes.



GOLD SPOTTED OAK BORER

GUIDELINES FOR STRATEGIC ACTION BEFORE GSOB STRIKES YOUR COMMUNITY



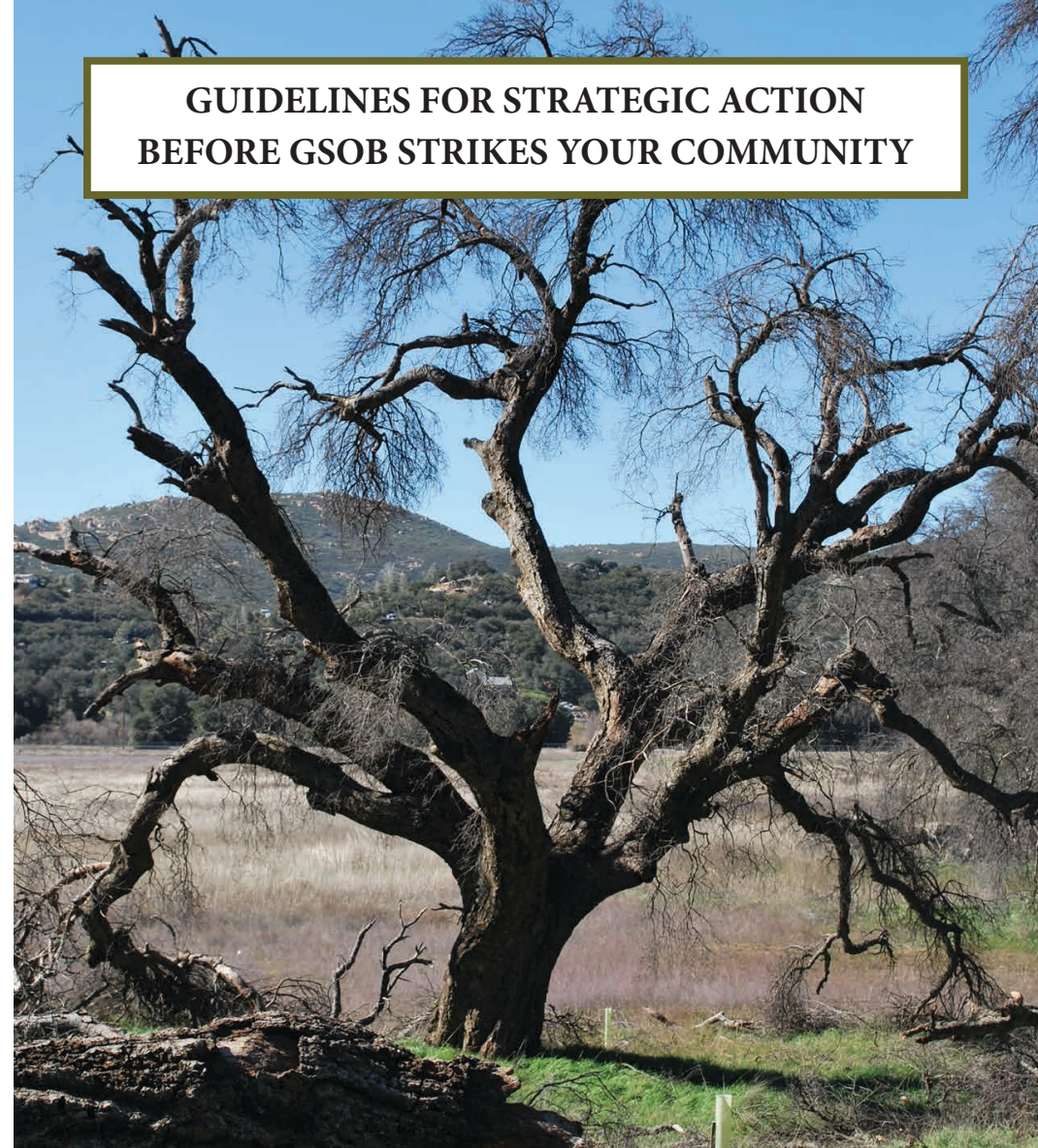
FOR MORE INFORMATION, REFERENCE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ABOUT GSOB VISIT:

www.GSOB.org

FOR EXAMPLES OF OTHER COMMUNITY TREE READINESS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS:

- Samples of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Community Preparedness Plans visit: <http://emeraldashborer.info/communityplan.cfm>
- Samples of Urban Forestry Management Plans visit: <https://ufmptoolkit.net/>

UC UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
CE Agriculture and Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension



Community Preparedness Plan

GSOB PREPAREDNESS PLAN OUTLINE

The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB; *Agrilus auroguttatus*) is an invasive beetle found in five Southern California counties. The movement of GSOB-infested firewood could rapidly spread it throughout much more of California's oak woodlands, forests, parks, and communities. Oak species susceptible to GSOB are coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*).

Once GSOB becomes established in a new location, an outbreak has the potential to kill most of the large-diameter oak trees, leading to dramatic reductions in aesthetic quality, property values, and value to wildlife. It may also result in unexpected and expensive tree removal and tree replacement costs. Planning in advance will allow your community to be prepared which can reduce the severity of these impacts and establish a solid foundation for recovery.



ORGANIZING FOR ACTION

Answering the following questions can help you plan ahead for GSOB. Such planning can facilitate better community coordination when working to minimize and manage the potentially severe financial and aesthetic impacts of this devastating insect.

WHO

- Who are the stakeholders? Who are the people affected by this threat that should be banding together?
- Identify government agencies and other organizations with resources to assist (e.g., County Departments, CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, UC Cooperative Extension, Resource Conservation Districts).
- Which community, volunteer, and non-governmental organizations can help (e.g., Fire Safe Councils, Homeowners Associations, Clubs, Civic Organizations)?
- Who will lead the organizational effort?
- Who in the community possess the skills necessary to assist with the problem (e.g., Registered Professional Foresters, Certified Arborists, Master Gardeners, GSOB Early Warning System Volunteers, Professional Tree Service Companies)?

WHAT

- What steps should be taken to prevent GSOB from being introduced into the community?
- Determine what action will be taken when the first infested tree or firewood is found within your community.
- What are the contingencies if GSOB becomes firmly established (e.g., How will dead tree removal and disposal costs be paid? Where will infested wood be disposed?)?

WHERE

- Where can you find assistance in developing a monitoring program for early GSOB detection?
- Identify where the public can find information and resources (e.g., the GSOB website at www.gsob.org).
- Determine where infested wood can be disposed of safely if it is confiscated or voluntarily surrendered.

WHEN

- Determine trigger points for active GSOB intervention (i.e., When will specifications be taken?).
- When will a new isolated infestation be treated (within 10 miles of the county line or inside the city limits)?
- When should emergency funding be sought?
- At what point will an infested wood disposal plan be necessary?

WHY

- Map or estimate the number of oaks at risk within your community and identify which landowner groups would be impacted (e.g., private, city, county, state, federal, other).
- Estimate the economic and aesthetic value of oaks in your community and calculate the potential cost of tree removal to make a case for GSOB prevention, monitoring and aggressive response.
- Determine where firewood is moving into your community to maximize outreach and prevention strategies to keep GSOB and other firewood-vectored pests out of your community.

HOW

- How will funding for GSOB prevention efforts be secured?
- How can firewood be managed to ensure it is bought locally and stays local? How can the private sector participate?
- How can money be raised to pay for treatments or tree removals?
- How will volunteers be trained and organized?

EDUCATION

Community officials should be alerted to the risks and expense of a potential GSOB outbreak. Key contacts and organizers should be kept apprised of current research findings as well as science-based control and prevention strategies. At every stage, public awareness of the GSOB threat and the risk of firewood movement should be implemented.