



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact:** Kristie Garcia  
Director of Public Affairs, New Mexico Department of Agriculture  
[kr Garcia@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:kr Garcia@nmda.nmsu.edu)  
575-646-2804

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**Firewood consumers are encouraged to know the law**

*State law requires firewood to be advertised and sold by the cord or fraction of a cord*

LAS CRUCES – If you plan to buy firewood this year, know what to avoid in order to get your money’s worth.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Standards and Consumer Services Division enforces the state’s Weights and Measures Law, which includes how firewood must be advertised and sold in order to maintain fairness in the marketplace.

State law requires firewood to be advertised and sold by the cord or fraction of a cord. A cord is legally defined as 128 cubic feet of wood and is commonly seen in a tight stack 4-foot-wide-by-4-feet-high-by-8-feet-long, with logs stacked parallel to one another. State law also requires the seller to provide a receipt or invoice noting what fraction of a cord is being sold and the type of wood.

State law allows for firewood to be sold by the pound in lesser amounts, but the seller must declare the price-per-cord equivalent. This does not apply to firewood sold in packaged bundles less than 100 pounds.

Keep in mind the following when buying firewood in New Mexico:

- The buyer should have the firewood stacked and measured while the seller is present.
- It is illegal to sell firewood in unspecified quantities such as load, truckload, face cord, rack, pile or loose cord.
- If firewood is sold by weight, the seller must declare the price per unit of weight and the equivalent price per cord. This does not apply to fuel wood sold in packaged bundles less than 100 pounds.
- Each delivery of firewood must be accompanied by a receipt or invoice containing the name and address of the buyer and seller, date of delivery, quantity delivered, identity of the commodity and the total selling price.

- If possible, the buyer should get the seller's phone number and write down the license plate of the delivery vehicle.
- Bundles of kindling wood or similar packages must be labeled with a statement of net content in terms of weight or measure.
- The label must include the name and place of business of the packager or distributor and a word or phrase identifying the product.

For more information about firewood sales, visit [www.nmda.nmsu.edu/scs/firewood](http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/scs/firewood) or call NMDA's Standards and Consumer Services Division at 575-646-1616.

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Cutline: State law requires firewood to be advertised and sold by the cord or fraction of a cord. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture Standards and Consumer Services Division enforces the state's Weights and Measures Law, which includes how firewood must be advertised and sold in order to maintain fairness in the marketplace. (Stock photo)