

Waterlines Express - News from DNR Division of Water

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Thank you for subscribing to the Indiana DNR Division of Water's (DOW) email newsletter and your interest in the division's mission to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use water resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

Temporary Piers on Public Freshwater Lakes

The Lake Preservation Act of Indiana establishes that the natural resources and scenic beauty of public freshwater lakes are a public right. Any activity occurring at or lakeward of a public freshwater lake's legal or average normal shoreline requires written authorization from the department before project initiation.

Property owners on Indiana's Public Freshwater Lakes can enjoy lake access via individual temporary piers under a general license. This exempts temporary piers from permitting if certain conditions are met.

For a temporary structure to qualify, the structure must satisfy each of the following:

1. Be easily removable.
2. Not infringe on the access of an adjacent landowner to the public freshwater lake.
3. Not unduly restrict navigation.
4. Not be unusually wide or long relative to similar structures within the vicinity of the same public freshwater lake.
5. Not extend more than 150 feet from the shoreline or water line.
6. Not extend more than 75 feet over water that is continuously deeper than six feet.

7. Not be a marina.
8. Not be a group pier.
9. Be placed by a riparian owner or with the written approval of a riparian owner.

Inspector Scott Dean, from the division's compliance section, has encountered various pier violations of the Lake Preservation Act. He said the most common infractions include using support poles greater than 3½ inches in diameter, constructing enclosures over piers, and exceeding the allowed pier length.

Additional guidance on allowable pier length is available on the division's [website](#). Separate rules for permitting group piers and marinas are outlined in the Indiana Administrative Code, which is also linked from the [website](#).

For questions about permitting or allowable piers, contact the Technical Services section at water_inquiry@dnr.IN.gov or call 317-232-4160, Option 1.

Prior to July 1, 2023, the Indiana Natural Resources Commission was responsible for handling disputes involving riparian rights, but the relevant code has since been removed from Indiana law. As a result, all riparian rights disputes involving piers must now be resolved in court. This significant change means that property owners facing pier-related conflicts can no longer rely on the state's Natural Resources Commission for resolution. Instead, they must pursue legal action through the court system to address and settle these disputes.





Examples of qualifying temporary piers.

Division of Water Upcoming Events

Indiana Flooding and Flood Tools Awareness Online Workshop

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24.

TIME: 9 a.m.- Noon ET | LOCATION: Online

This workshop is presented by the Indiana Silver Jackets federal and state-level partners: Indiana DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Association, National Weather Service, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Polis Center at IU Indianapolis, and more.

TARGET AUDIENCE: New and careered personnel interested in learning about current tools and technology available for flood risk management in Indiana. Appropriate for county commissioners, county surveyors, emergency and floodplain managers, and soil and water conservation personnel.

This three-hour workshop will address the common types and causes of flooding in Indiana, as well as flood-related regulations, mitigation best practices, and climate change impacts. A significant focus of this meeting will be on the flood risk reduction tools available, including flood risk management (FRM) data and tools, stream and lake gauges; flood inundation maps (FIMs); available data sources (i.e., Indiana Floodplain Information Portal); and partner agency FRM programs.

Attendance is free.

Please register by emailing the following information to: Indiana_Flood_Tools@USACE.army.mil
Name / Agency / Organization; email & phone number; which meeting date/location attending; specific accommodations needed.

INDIANA FLOODING AND FLOOD TOOLS AWARENESS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

In case you missed it!



SEPTEMBER

24

9AM-12PM EST



To register for this FREE event
please e-mail
Indiana_Flood_Tools@usace.army.mil
with your name and contact information
or scan the QR code



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