

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.

Managing logjams in waterways

The Division of Water regularly addresses inquiries from property owners regarding the management of logjams, particularly in the aftermath of flooding and significant precipitation events.

A logjam is defined in Indiana Code as an accumulation of lodged trees, root wads, or other debris that impedes the ordinary flow of water through a waterway. Per IC 14-28-1-3.7, a logjam is characterized by a blockage that traverses the waterway, causes upstream ponding, or results in significant bank erosion.

In a similar vein, a "mass of wood debris" is classified as an accumulation of lodged trees or other woody material that causes or threatens to cause flooding on a road or private property, impedes navigation by boat, or reduces the capacity of a waterway to transport water.

Property owners are generally accountable for the removal of logjams on or bordering their property. In cases in which the stream is classified as a regulated drain, the County Drainage Board assumes this responsibility. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not provide debris removal services.

Logjam removal may fall under the purview of activities regulated by the Indiana Flood Control Act. Consequently, property owners may be required to obtain a permit before undertaking such work.

Administrative rules, including permit exemptions, have been established for logjam removal activities.

Recently, the DOW updated its [Regulatory Guide for Removal of a Logjam or a Mass of Wood Debris from a Floodway](#). This document outlines key considerations that determine whether a permit is necessary for logjam removal. We encourage all interested parties to consult this guide for detailed information on navigating the regulatory landscape surrounding logjam removal.



Division of Water Upcoming Events

For local officials: **NFIP Violations and Compliance Workshop.**

These sessions will focus on a more in-depth look at inspecting potential violations, notifying and meeting with the property owners, and resolving violations. The same presentation will be offered at the following four times:

- Dec. 10, 10 a.m. - noon
- Dec. 10, 2 - 4 p.m.
- Dec. 12, 9 - 11 a.m.
- Dec. 12, 1 - 3 p.m.

[Register here](#)

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