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# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

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29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

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## Obtaining Authorization for Emergency Wetlands Impacts

In accordance with Env-Wt 501, applicants may request, and DES may authorize, work within jurisdiction when there is a threat to public safety, public health or significant damage to private property is imminent and the event causing the emergency occurred within the previous five days.

The Emergency Authorization is limited to temporary stabilization of the site or mitigation of the immediate threat and is not to be used to compensate for an applicant's remiss or failure to file a timely application.

Examples of emergencies include the undermining of bridge abutments, weakening dam structures, and roadway washouts caused by flood waters.

Should an emergency arise, the project proponent should contact the DES Wetlands Bureau at (603) 271-2147. In order to catalog the emergency, the Wetlands staff will ask for basic information such as:

- The owner's name and address.
- The contractor's name and address.
- The name of the town in which the project is located.
- The name of the affected waterbody.
- A brief description of the work that will be done.
- The primary contact name with phone number.

In addition, the Wetlands staff may ask the project proponent to provide additional information to assist with staff's understanding of the proposed project. Materials requested could include photographs of the site, a USGS topographical map with the project located, a site sketch or a proposed project narrative, including construction sequencing.

If the emergency authorization to proceed with work is granted by DES, the Wetlands staff will email or fax a project authorization form to the project proponent.

If an emergency should occur at a time when the state offices are closed and the threat must be stabilized immediately, contact the NH Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management office at: **in-state and local** (603) 271-2231; **toll-free** (800) 852-3792; **fax** (603) 223-3609; or **TTY/TDD Relay Services** (800) 735-2964. In addition, notify your town's governing body prior to conducting any work, and notify DES during the next working day.

For more information, please contact the Wetlands Bureau at (603) 271-2147.