



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Emergency Procedures Related to December 2025 Flooding

**Issue Date:** April 2, 2026

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Portland District is issuing this Public Notice to announce the approval of emergency procedures for emergency situations as a result of the December 2025 Flood Event that affected Oregon and Washington. In December 2025 a series of storms in the Pacific Northwest resulted in damages from erosion and flooding that may have resulted in emergency situations.

An “emergency” is a situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures. In emergency situations, the district engineer will explain the circumstances and recommend special procedures to the division engineer who will instruct the district engineer as to further processing of the application. Even in an emergency situation, reasonable efforts will be made to receive comments from interested Federal, state, and local agencies and the affected public. Also, notice of any special procedures authorized and their rationale is to be appropriately published as soon as practicable. 33 CFR § 325.2(e)(4).

The Northwestern Division Engineer has approved the use of emergency procedures to authorize activities requiring a Department of the Army (DA) authorization as a result of the December 2025 Flood Event. The approved emergency procedures require Portland District Regulatory Division staff to contact federal, state, and Tribal partners informing them that we are implementing emergency procedures for activities in response to the flood event and in accordance with regulation, policy, and guidance, make reasonable efforts to receive their input. Additional coordination will follow as the emergency situation is stabilized. The use of emergency procedures for activities in response to the December 2025 Flood Event expire on August 9, 2026.

**AUTHORITIES:** Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403).

**REGULATED WATERS:** Under the provisions of Section 404, a DA permit is required for temporary and/or permanent discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the

United States, including wetlands. Generally, a DA permit is required under Section 10 for structures and/or work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States.

**EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURES & PERMIT OPTIONS:** If you believe your proposed activity is an emergency situation and may require DA authorization, you should immediately contact the Portland District. The Portland District will determine if a DA permit is required and if emergency procedures are applicable.

Portland District can be contacted in emergency situations by phone, email, through the Regulatory Request System, mail or by physically dropping off the documents at a Portland District Regulatory office. Contact information for the Portland District Regulatory Division is included at the bottom of this Public Notice.

Certain activities do not result in a discharge of dredge or fill material or work in a navigable water. Clearing and removal of floating debris, such as tree trunks and limbs and trash, from around culverts, bridge crossings, boat docks or retaining walls, does not require a permit provided no material that is removed is placed permanently in a water of the United States.

Certain activities that result in a discharge of dredge or fill material may not require Section 404 authorization as they are considered exempt activities. Examples of activities meeting an exemption may include maintenance, including emergency reconstruction of recently damaged parts of currently serviceable structures such as dikes, dams, levees, groins, riprap, breakwaters, causeways, bridge abutments or approaches, and transportation structures, provided there is no change in the footprint, grades or character of the original features. Exemptions apply to the construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds and ditches and construction of temporary sedimentation basins. See 33 CFR 323.4 (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/section-323.4>) for more information.

In many cases, responses to emergency situations that require a DA permit may be authorized expeditiously through general permits, including Nationwide Permits (NWPs) and Regional General Permits (RGPs). In emergency situations there are a variety of possible permitting options. Possible permits that might be applicable in emergency situations are:

- NWP 3 – Maintenance
- NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization
- NWP 33 – Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
- NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects
- NWP 45 – Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- Individual Permits – Standard Permits or Letters of Permission

The following list of required information is intended to give the Portland District enough information to determine if a DA permit is required and whether emergency procedures

are applicable. This list is not exhaustive and more information may be required. If you are unable to provide all of the information below, provide as much information as you can initially and then follow up with the Portland District as needed.

**PROJECT INFORMATION:** Provide the following information:

1. **Contact Information:** Name, address, telephone number, and email address (if available) of the landowner and the person (contractor, agent, etc.) responsible for the work if other than the landowner.
2. **Project Location:** Street address or other description including section, township, range, county, and latitude/longitude in decimal degrees for all locations of work. Locations can also be shown on a map. This should include identification of the affected water(s).
3. **Nature of the Emergency, Urgency and Timing of Work:** A description of the nature of the imminent threat to life or property and purpose and need for the proposed activity. Specify whether the work is in response to damage from the December 2025 flood event. Estimate when the work will begin and how long it will take to complete the work.
4. **Project Description:** A description of the work proposed to rectify the emergency situation, include all proposed new work and any work completed and/or begun without prior written authorization from the USACE.
  - a. The purpose and need for the project.
  - b. Type, composition, and volume of fill and/or excavated material. Source or borrow site location for fill material.
  - c. Length, width, and depth of fill material and/or excavation area.
  - d. Disposal site(s) for the fill and/or excavated material.
  - e. Types of equipment to be used.
  - f. Impacts to wetlands, streams, or other waters of the U.S. in square feet or acres.
5. **Drawings, Maps, and/or Project Plans:** A set of drawings (hand drawn or computer generated) with dimensions of the work showing:
  - a. A plan or top view of the project area(s), staging area(s), and access point(s), clearly identifying types and locations of structures/impacts, along with dimensions, and approximate extents of aquatic resources, to include the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of waters and boundaries of wetlands, within the project area. A sketch can be made of the project location identified on an aerial map, including the disposal site locations for material to be removed (if any).
  - b. A typical cross-section or side/profile view(s) to scale of the existing stream channel and the proposed structures, including dimensions (length, width and height of the structures or work), and the location of the OHWM.
6. **Permit Type:** Identify the specific type of permit requested, if known.
7. **Endangered Species & Critical Habitat:** Identify any federally listed Endangered Species, and any designated critical habitat in the project area. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS or their web page at <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>.

8. **Historic & Cultural Resources:** Identify any known historic properties or cultural resources in the project area.

**OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS:** Use of emergency procedures does not obviate the requirement to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The list below is not exhaustive:

- **Section 401 of the Clean Water Act:** Water quality certification is a necessary component of any DA permit. Depending on the location of the activity, the certifying authority may be the State water quality agencies, Tribes, or the U.S. EPA.
- **Historic Properties:** All activities authorized by USACE must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- **Endangered Species:** All activities authorized by the USACE must comply with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- **Tribal Rights:** All activities authorized by USACE must not cause more than minimal adverse effects on Tribal rights, including treaty rights, protected Tribal resources, and Tribal lands.
- **Section 408:** Identify any federally authorized projects within the proposed project area. Section 408 is the process that allows alteration to a federally authorized project. The proposed project cannot pose a risk to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the federally authorized project. Examples of federally authorized projects include, but are not limited to levees, dams and the federal navigation channel. [https:// https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/408/](https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/408/)

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. Activities accomplished under emergency procedures may require that compensatory mitigation be provided after-the-fact to offset unavoidable adverse impacts. This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** In emergency situations, applications can be submitted through the Regulatory Request System, emailed, mailed (use P.O. box), or hand delivered; additional information can be relayed over the phone or through email.

Additional information may be obtained from USACE at the address, phone number, or email, provided below:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Division  
333 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946  
Telephone: (503) 808-4373  
Email: [portlandpermits@usace.army.mil](mailto:portlandpermits@usace.army.mil)

**Regulatory Request System** (<https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>)

RRS is an online application portal that allows the public to submit requests electronically. RRS allows the public to submit individual and general permit applications; requests for jurisdictional determinations and pre-application meetings; report suspected unauthorized activities (anonymously if desired) and now, ***on-line and immediate confirmation*** for activities does not require a USACE permit.