

DNR NEWS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
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Reconstruction after the flood

To protect the safety of Hoosier families and communities affected by recent severe weather, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reminds Hoosiers that local floodplain permits are required to reconstruct buildings in special flood hazard areas across the state.

Many communities impacted by the recent flooding have floodplain management ordinances in place to regulate floodplain construction and reconstruction. Alteration of floodplains or the placement of structures in them can significantly increase the magnitude and velocity of floodwaters. Development is controlled through the local floodplain ordinance so construction and related activities never divert, impede, or obstruct floodwaters to the point where public safety could be threatened.

Communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulate floodplain development through construction and building permits. We remind local residents of the need to obtain local permits prior to reconstructing or making repairs to their damaged buildings in federally designated floodplains. Before reconstructing or repairing **anything**, first check with the local floodplain administrator to determine if the site is in a special flood hazard area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In addition, buildings reconstructed in the floodplain must be elevated to reduce the risk of future flood damage. If you are reconstructing in the floodway portion of the floodplain, a permit from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources may also be required. Your local permit official will assist you in determining if a DNR permit is necessary.

For more information on the NFIP and reconstruction requirements, contact Debbie Smith at (317) 232-4178 or Gregory Main at (317) 234-1107, with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

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