

## Department of Natural Resources Adopts Final Rule for Management of State-Owned Property

The Department of Natural Resources is filing a permanent rule to replace the Emergency Rule (effective January 30, 2025) to implement the new State requirements for development activity on State-owned property. This rule, “Floodplain Development Requirements for State Owned Properties” – 17 Ill. Adm. Code 3710 (Part 3701), requires all development activity in the floodplain on State-owned property be managed and permitted in compliance with NFIP standards. The rule includes some higher standards such as a one-foot freeboard requirement for new, substantially improved, or substantially damaged buildings. Additionally, critical facilities that are new, substantially improved, or substantially damaged must elevate the lowest floor, including basements, or be structurally dry floodproofed to the 0.2% annual chance flood elevation (when delineated on the FIRM) or three feet above the BFE, whichever is greater. Critical facilities are defined as police or firefighting buildings, corrections facilities, hazardous materials storage units (chemicals, petrochemicals, hazardous or toxic substances), nursing homes, hospitals, health care facilities, assisted living facilities, residential educational facilities, retirement care facilities, critical utility sites (telephone switching stations or electrical transformers), and facilities used to store critical records. Roads and bridges are not defined as critical facilities for purposes of this rule.

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While this rule applies to development on state-owned property there may be implications for local communities. One example we have seen under the emergency rule involves local access to state roads and highways. If a local developer is using any portion of state-owned property as part of their development project they must work with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to apply for the Part 3710 permit. Because the rule only applies to state agencies the application for this work must include IDOT – even if they are not otherwise involved in the development project. The application for a Part 3710 permit can be made using the existing permit application form found on the DNR website at: [Permit Program](#)

The final rule will replace the emergency rule before the emergency rule expires so there will not be a break in the NFIP requirements for development activity on State-owned property. If you have questions about this rule please reach out to Erin Conley at [erin.c.conley@illinois.gov](mailto:erin.c.conley@illinois.gov)

## Annual Community Contact Update Letter

The IDNR sends a letter every year to your local CEO to request an update to the contact information for the CEO and the floodplain administrator. Please be aware that this letter is on its way and respond – even if there are no changes. This is important information for us to have to ensure that we can stay in touch with your local officials and your floodplain administrator.

## Instructions for How to Drain a Flooded Basement

Pumping a basement out too soon after a flood could result in a broken floor and damaged walls due to pressure from the saturated soil surrounding the foundation. Advise your residents to wait for not only surface waters to recede but also wait for the ground water to recede as well. Provide your residents with instructions to avoid this damage and potentially a substantial damage determination. A plumber or a flood restoration company may be needed to help remove the water. Removing 8 or more feet of water, using the following step-by-step instructions, will take **4 or more days**.

Step 1. Make sure the electricity and gas are shut off, call your flood insurance agent or insurance company to start your claim, and take photos.

Step 2. If the floodwater has receded from outside of the home, you can slowly begin pumping the water out of the basement in stages. Mark the height of the water.

Step 3. Pump the water level down only one to two feet. Mark the new water level on a wall and wait overnight to see if water does not seep back in.

Step 4. Check the water level the next day.

- If the water went back up, it's still too early to try to drain the basement. Wait overnight and repeat Step 3.
- If the water has not risen, pump the water down another one to two feet, mark the water level, and again wait overnight.

Step 5. If the water level does rise overnight, pump down at two-to-three-foot increments waiting overnight, until the basement is pumped out.

## Job Posting with the Department of Natural Resources' Office of Water Resources

The Office of Water Resources has the following position posted and we are looking for candidates, please spread the word if you know of people looking for an exciting new opportunity to work in an important field!

**Permit Engineer** - This position will review engineering computations in support of projects involving such elements as flood control, drainage, water supply and demand, low flow augmentation, irrigation, streambank protection, and recreation analysis, compute such items as channel discharges, river stages, watershed runoff, estimates of volumes and areas, estimates of cuts and fills and structural stress on strain analysis, evaluate the summary output while assisting in assigned projects, and will review and prepare construction plans, specifications and cost estimates. The Division of Water Resource Management is responsible for regulating activities within or adjacent to Illinois rivers, lakes and streams; administering the state floodplain/floodway mapping; allocating and monitoring water use from Lake Michigan; coordinating the National Flood Insurance Program; and administering the nonstructural flood mitigation program.

## Flood Risk and Flood Insurance Outreach Materials



Floods continue to be a risk for Illinois residents, and it is important to communicate that risk. FEMA offers several printed publications you can use to provide information to your residents and elected officials to help them better understand the flood risk in your community and the benefits of having a flood insurance policy. The publications can also be ordered from FEMA using this [Publications Order Form \(floodsmart.gov\)](#). Many publications can be ordered in both English and Spanish. Here are some recommendations listed on publications order form:

[Answers to Questions About the NFIP](#) | [FloodSmart](#)

[Why Do I](#)

[Need Flood Insurance?](#)

[Most Homeowners Insurance Does Not Cover Flood Damage Postcard](#) |

[Map Changes and Flood Insurance](#)

[NFIP Flood Insurance for Renters Brochure](#) | [FloodSmart](#)

There are additional resources for your social media accounts. Artwork and messages can be found at:

[Flood Safety Social Media Toolkit](#) | [Ready.gov](#)

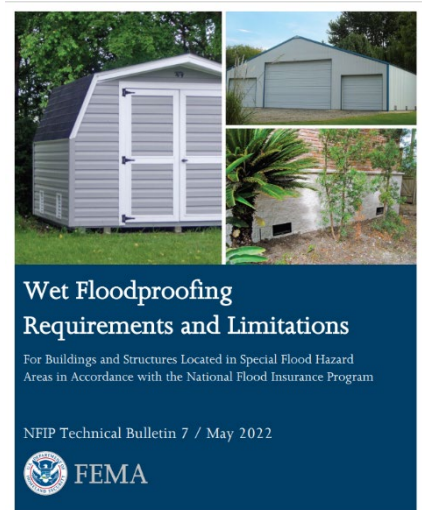
[Resolve to be Ready Social Media Toolkit](#) | [Ready.gov](#)

[Financial Preparedness Social Media Toolkit](#) | [Ready.gov](#)

[FEMA Flood Risk Communication Toolkit for Community Officials](#) | [FEMA.gov](#)

## FEMA Technical Bulletins and Guidance

Finding new Technical Bulletins online can be difficult, especially newly issued versions. It is easiest to go to FEMA's [National Flood Insurance Technical Bulletins](#) | [FEMA.gov](#) webpage, which provides the links to all of the technical bulletins. These documents are an excellent resource to help both you and the applicant ensure a compliant building is constructed. Non-compliant buildings can cost the owner thousands of dollars every year in higher flood insurance premiums. In addition to these Technical Bulletins, FEMA also issued additional guidance for agricultural and accessory structures: [Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures \(fema.gov\)](#). These two pages are important to have bookmarked for easy reference.



### Statewide Contact for Floodplain Management Questions

If you have questions please direct them to Erin Conley, State Floodplain Manager, [Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov](mailto:Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov). The Northeastern Illinois Floodplain Manager position is currently vacant.