

Drainage Management



Permitting Factsheet #5

Emergency Drainage Maintenance

Introduction

Circumstances will arise as a result of weather or other factors where drainage maintenance work must be done outside of designated work windows and/or require the actions that deviate from the Best Management Practices (BMPs) in a Drainage Management Plan (DMP). In the event of a drainage maintenance emergency, the following protocols will apply:

Constructed Watercourses

Notification to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Whatcom County Planning and Development Services (WCPDS) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is not required for emergency repair activities in constructed watercourses identified in a Drainage Improvement District's (DID's) DMP. BMP implementation is voluntary but careful monitoring of water quality is necessary to ensure downstream waters are not impacted.

Factsheet # 16 Water Quality Protection Measures

Modified Natural Watercourses

Emergency approval is required by WDFW and emergency notification is required to ACOE (when an ACOE permit was required) for any emergency repair activities occurring in Modified Natural Watercourses identified in a DID's DMP.

WDFW Emergency Contacts:

Jeff Kamps (Area Habitat Biologist) -

(360) 466-4345 Ext. 271

Brendan Brokes - (360) 466-4345 Ext. 253

Emergency Hotline - (360) 902-2537

In most cases WDFW will issue a verbal emergency maintenance approval, with the understanding that the proposed work is necessary to address emergency drainage conditions. The DID will schedule an on-site meeting with the WDFW Area Habitat Biologist as soon as possible, but not more than 30 days after work is completed. The purpose of this on-site meeting will be to determine if additional measures will be necessary to restore fish habitat that may have been damaged as a

result of an emergency action undertaken by the DID.

ACOE Emergency Contacts:

(for DIDs with watercourses needing a ACOE permit)

Randel Perry - Skagit/Whatcom and FERC/Special

Assignment - (206) 764-6985

FAX number - (206) 764-6602

1. Make sure you make a good faith effort to contact the Corps Regulatory Branch before proceeding with work, i.e., at least leave a voice mail and fax stating whatever information you have available. The fax number for everyone located in the main office in Seattle is (206) 764-6602. If a permit is required and no contact was made, we could consider the work a knowing and willful violation.
2. Information to give the Corps - if you are unable to speak with someone directly, leave as much of the following information on voice mail and follow up with more details as soon as possible.
 - Where the work is located (highway, river mile, nearest waterbody, nearest city, etc.).
 - What work is being performed (replacement of lost riprap, bank protection, replacement of lost uplands, large woody debris being placed, cleaning of a culvert, etc.).
 - Include a discussion (amounts, location, etc.) of any temporary fill/work, when the material will be removed, and how the area will be restored.
 - How the work is being performed (clean excavation with backhoe, pushing of material with bulldozer, blasting out the culvert with water, etc.).
 - If any of the proposed work is in wetlands or below the plane of ordinary high water (freshwater) or below the plane of mean higher high or mean high water (tidal).
 - Relationship of the proposed work to previously existing structures (replacing what previously existed or adding different structures, etc).
 - Photos, if available, can often be very helpful.
 - Anything else that could help us to determine what is being proposed (reference previously issued permits for work at the site).
 - Include what coordination with the NMFS/USFW (Services) for ESA/EFH has occurred.