

Wet Weather Logging Advisory for 2018 Hurricane Florence

Take Action Now to Reinforce Your BMPs to Prepare for Multiple Impacts

This storm appears on track to severely impact a broad area of North Carolina and Virginia, stretching from the coast to as far inland as the I-77 corridor and possibly central, southern and western Virginia, with extreme winds and torrential rain lingering for multiple days. Rainfall forecasts show as much as 10" to 15" of rain across a swath of central and eastern North Carolina and Virginia. Such rain overwhelms 'normal' BMPs. In order to protect stream water quality, loggers are encouraged to install additional, multiple, and more robust BMPs to prepare for heavy rainfall runoff, and reduce flooding effects.

Some suggested actions include:

- Remove all temporary stream and ditch crossings, especially 'brush' crossings.
- Remove any logging debris that is within a stream or ditch channel.
- Clear out culvert pipe inlets and outlets. If possible, remove any un-necessary culvert.
- Immediately cease constructing new roads, or blading-in new skid trails, or re-grading of roads. The freshly exposed bare soil will not have time to stabilize before the storm brings heavy rains.
- Apply, crush, and work-in a thick layer of branches, treetops, limbs, and logging slash along sloping sections of skid trails, approaches to stream crossings, and at log decks.
- Merchandize and remove all logs and felled timber, in case you cannot return to the site after the storm. This include shovel logging skid trails. Coastal storm surge can push water far inland up rivers, creeks, and canals.
- Remove all oil, fuel, lube, and other petroleum containers off-site.
- Remove portable bridgemats and road mats, so they do not get swept away. The bridgemats may be needed after the storm if public roads are washed out.
- Install multiple, repeated, robust runoff and erosion control diversions on skid trails and roads (waterbars, turnouts, silt traps, etc.). For example, if you would normally only need to install 5 waterbars on a skid trail...now install 10 to prepare for this storm.

By mid-day Thursday, move your logging equipment to high ground, to a place that is easily accessible by public road, and away from tall trees or powerlines. The saturated soil conditions in conjunction with hurricane force winds, will cause considerable tree damage and blowdown, and loggers may be called upon to promptly respond, requiring quick access to your equipment.

After The Storm:

- Avoid driving or logging in flooded areas. Watch out for washed-out or undermined roads. Avoid bodily contact with floodwaters. Watch for widow-makers and hung trees.
- Do not touch any downed powerlines, or equipment in-contact with powerlines.
- Clear away clogged culverts if safe to do so.
- If you observe widespread blown-down or damaged timber, share your observations with the [local](#) VDOF office so that an accurate damage assessment can be developed.
- Keep apprised of any possible weight limit restrictions being lifted for temporary transport of downed and damaged timber – these frequently get removed to facilitate salvage of downed timber.

Even after the rain stops, downstream river flooding will linger for several days, or weeks. Waters may continue rising along the floodplains for days after the storm has passed. Monitor river flooding on the National Weather Service website: <https://www.weather.gov/akq/Florence>