



EMERGENCY CREEK & PRIVATE BRIDGE PERMITTING ASSISTANCE



I have a private bridge that was damaged in the fire. What do I need to do?

If your bridge was damaged or destroyed in the fire, you may qualify for emergency or expedited permits.

Step 1: Determine whether the bridge needs to be repaired or replaced. A private civil engineer or a structural engineer needs to inspect the bridge to determine if the structural support is damaged and to evaluate loading capacity.

- Repair: If it is determined that the structure is sound and just needs the running surface replaced then the bridge can be repaired through a streamlined permitting process.
 - For a deck replacement where there are no forms or other materials placed on the banks of the channel, and no vegetation is removed – only a building permit from Permit Sonoma is required. Additional permits from the other Resource Agencies (Army Corps, Regional Board or Dept. of Fish and Wildlife) are generally not required for deck replacement. If vegetation or tree removal is required near the banks of the stream, a notice to the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is also required. Repaired bridges must have signs posted stating the maximum loading capacity of the bridge.
- Replace: If it is determined that the bridge's abutments or piers are not sound, it will need to be permitted, replaced, and brought up to current standards.

Step 2: Visit or contact Permit Sonoma. Permit Sonoma staff can provide guidance in the emergency permitting process to repair or rebuild your bridge.

- They will support you in the application process in partnership with other Resource Agencies involved in the process including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Regional Water Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services staff located at Permit Sonoma will provide information on loading requirements.

Step 3: Submit building permit application. Permit Sonoma will process appropriate demolition and building permits to repair or rebuild your bridge.

- Obtain a demolition permit from Permit Sonoma for removal of damaged structure, if this was not part of the home debris removal process.
- Submit complete design plans for the repaired or new structure to Permit Sonoma to obtain building permits.

For more information, contact Rich Stabler at Permit Sonoma: rich.stabler@sonoma-county.org or 707-565-8352.