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NH Timber Harvesting Law Fact Sheet



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Timber Trespass (RSA 227-J:8)

Timber can be an asset of considerable value and, when harvested, return thousands of dollars to the landowner. In addition, tax revenue is returned to the town based on the total volume harvested.

New Hampshire timber harvesting laws include timber trespass provisions to protect landowners from theft or reckless timber cutting that may occur without the landowner's permission.

NH Timber Trespass law states:

227-J:8 Trespass; Civil Penalty

- I. *No person shall negligently cut, fell, destroy, injure, or carry away any tree, timber, log, wood, pole, underwood, or bark which is on the land of another, or aid in such actions without the permission of that person or the person's agent.*
- II. *In addition to any other civil or criminal penalty allowed by law, any person who violates the provisions in paragraph I shall forfeit to the person injured no less than 3 and not more than 10 times the market value of every such tree, timber, log, lumber, wood, pole, underwood, or bark cut, felled, destroyed, injured, or carried away.*

227-J:8-a Trespass; Criminal Penalty

- I. *No person shall recklessly cut, fell, destroy, injure, or carry away any tree, timber, log, wood, pole, underwood, or bark which is on the land of another person, or aid in such actions without the permission of that person or the person's agent.*
- II. *A person who violates the provisions of paragraph I shall be guilty of a class B felony if the loss is greater than \$1000, or a misdemeanor for any other loss.*

If you suspect that timber has been stolen from your property please consider the following questions:

1. Do you know where your boundary lines are?
2. Has the property been recently surveyed?
3. Are your property lines marked?
4. Do you have a map?
5. If the theft has occurred through the property of another, have you contacted the abutter?

For additional info visit the Division or their web site or call 271-2217.

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