



NH Division of Forests and Lands,  
PO Box 1856, 172 Pembroke Rd.,  
Concord, NH 03302-1856  
(603) 271-2217  
<http://www.nhdf.org>

# NH Timber Harvesting Law Fact Sheet



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## Timber Trespass (RSA 227-J:8)

Timber can be worth thousands of dollars. As such, it can be a tempting target for unscrupulous operators. In addition to the law as described below, it is important that landowners know where their boundary lines are and mark them accordingly.

### *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?

If, after considering these questions, please contact the NH Division of Forests and Lands at 603-271-2217.

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Revised 1/5/05