



FLOOD RESOURCE FACT SHEET

SANDBAGS AND PROPERTY PROTECTION

Sandbagging stations

- **Fort Missoula** – Team Rubicon, along with many community volunteers, completed pre-filling sandbag operations. Residents can obtain sandbags at the Fort Missoula site located at 3335 Lt. Moss Road (in the field).
- **Frenchtown Fire Station 1** – Self-fill sandbag station, filled and unfilled sandbags and sand are available at 16875 Marion Street in Frenchtown.
- **East Missoula Fire Department** – Self-fill sandbag station, filled and unfilled sandbags and sand are available at 314 Montana Ave.
- **Seeley Lake** - Sandbags can be obtained at the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Sandbag safety and proper technique. Sandbagging is labor intensive and hard physical work. Be aware of your physical limitations when sandbagging. Follow these safety tips:

- Use proper lifting techniques to avoid injury and fatigue. Lift with your legs and bend at the knees to save your back.
- Sandbags are treated to prevent deterioration when stored. Use work gloves and avoid contact with your eyes and mouth.
- If working near heavy equipment, stay in eye contact with equipment operators and keep alert for truck backup alarms.
- Flood waters can be polluted. Use rubber gloves and appropriate clothing if contact with water is unavoidable.
- Wear adequate clothing in layers and watertight boots. Reflective material on outer clothing is essential for night work.
- Rotate team members frequently to avoid fatigue.
- Do not tie the bags, fold the top in and allow the end user to tie if needed.

If you are stacking sandbags, be sure to use proper technique – they will NOT be effective if you don't! Watch the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers video at youtu.be/hQPAIFMVtM.

Protecting private property. The most effective way to protect homes and other structures is to construct a circular (not square) perimeter of sandbags around the foundation. However, do not use sandbags around property lines to try to prevent land/lawns from getting wet or place them on top of stream banks or rivers, as this could push those waters to flow faster and deeper downstream — to the detriment of others.

Residents should NOT try to construct their own levees or earthen berms. Doing so could unpredictably divert the flow of water and impact other property downstream, which is prohibited by state law (MCA 76-5-403(2)).

If you choose to use sandbags to protect private property, be aware that you need to obtain permission to place sandbags along riparian areas by calling the Missoula Conservation District at 406-829-3395 and the Army Corps of Engineers at 406-441-1375.