

INFRASTRUCTURE

SANDBAGS ON CALL

IMPROVEMENT

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK.



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Each year, unmanaged flood-waters endanger homes, resulting in loss of life, flood damage to commercial premises and untold insurance claims.

Obviously better infrastructure needs to be put in place, but by its nature, infrastructure is a long term solution that requires deep planning, finance and a willingness to accept and create change. In the meantime, immediate action is required to provide 'band-aid' solutions to mitigate loss and hardship, reduce insurance claims and ultimately maintain productivity.

One small solution may well be locally available Sand Bag Depots.

I see these as large barns placed in strategic areas, that store sufficient quantities of pre-filled sandbags. The sand bags can be filled 'Out-of-Season' to maintain preparedness.

These can be stored on pallets, available for quick distribution during major weather events. The barns can be available to County Only, or setup as bulk distribution centers.

The premises can double down with other Public Works storage facilities, National Guard Armories etc... to make the most productive use of space, manpower and redistribution.

Commercial facilities may wish to "Joint Venture" with County and Sponsor or store walls of sandbags that aid them in Sound Insulation etc...

Firing Ranges are obvious examples, where Sound and Impact absorption can benefit the organization as well as the community.



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Smaller and inexpensive bagging machines are available at reasonable cost, and these could be manned by volunteers to defray costs.

We envisage community groups arranging a Family Day at these Depots, where County delivers raw sand, while volunteers fill and stack bags so that they are available on-call during weather or flooding events.

Other materials could be stored in the same facility, especially related goods that may include environmental booms, barriers and signage.



SANDBAGS DISPOSAL

The experts at some County's Department of Public Works offer some answers to the sandbag disposal question:

With rainy season approaching, consider keeping your sandbags for reuse.

You could store them filled, or empty out the clean sand and store the bags away from sunlight in a covered, above-ground location.

If the used sandbags are not contaminated with foul water, chemicals, or petroleum products, rake the sand into soil, add it to planters, or use it for flowerbeds as a soil amendment.

Place the empty bags in trash cans if you choose not to reuse them.

Do not place the empty sandbags in the recycle bin.

If you cannot reuse the sand or sandbags at home, take them directly to the landfill.

Local landfills can usually accept sandbags used for storm-water control.

Do not put full sandbags in your trash cart, bins, or dumpsters, they are too heavy for disposal companies to collect.

If you see or suspect your sandbags are contaminated with sewage, chemicals, or petroleum products, handle them with protective gear, including gloves and protective eye-wear.

Dispose of them at select landfills or through a hazardous waste contractor.

Please contact the landfill facility in advance as additional handling and paperwork will be required.

