Important Winter Weather, Flooding and Sandbag Information

The City of Dana Point thanks you for doing your part in helping to prevent erosion pollution and protecting our environment. This handout describes the proper use of sandbag barriers for redirecting rain water or sediment control around your home. If you have any questions, please call the Department of Public Works & Engineering Services at (949) 248-3554 or email publicworks@danapoint.org.

GENERAL
A sandbag barrier consists of a row of sand-filled bags placed on a level contour. When appropriately placed, a sandbag barrier intercepts and slows sheet flow runoff, causing temporary ponding or redirecting of surface runoff; sandbags are not waterproof. The temporary ponding provides quiescent conditions allowing sediment to settle. While the sand-filled bags are porous, the fine sand tends to quickly plug with sediment, limiting the rate of flow through the barrier. Sandbag barriers also interrupt the slope length and thereby reduce erosion by reducing the tendency of sheet flows to concentrate into rivulets which erode rills - and ultimately gullies - into disturbed, sloped soils.

Plan ahead and get sandbags early before their supply becomes scarce!

Sandbag barriers may be suitable for the following uses:
- Redirecting rain water away from structures and sensitive areas.
- Along the perimeter of a site.
- Below the toe of slopes and erodible slopes.
- As a sediment trap at a pipe outlet.
- Below small cleared areas or areas of exposed soils.
- Around temporary stockpiles and spoil areas.
- Parallel to a roadway to keep sediment off paved areas.
- As a linear erosion control measure:
  - Along the face and at grade breaks of exposed and erodible slopes to shorten slope length and spread runoff as sheet flow.
  - At the top of slopes to divert runoff away from disturbed slopes.

IMPLEMENTATION

Design and Layout
- Place sandbag barriers on a level surface, if possible.
- Turn the ends of the sandbag barrier up the slope to prevent runoff from going around the barrier.
- Overlap butt joins of row beneath with each successive row (as bricks are laid).
- Butt ends of bags tightly.
- Use a pyramid approach when stacking bags several bags wide.
- Allow sufficient space behind the bags to allow room for ponding and sediment storage.
- When installing near the bottom of a slope, consider moving the barrier away from the edge of the slope to facilitate maintenance and cleaning.
- To prevent parallel flow behind the barrier, sandbags can be placed perpendicular to the barrier to serve as cross barriers.
**Inspection and Maintenance**
- Inspect prior to forecast rain, daily during extended rain events, after rain events and weekly during the rainy season.
- Sandbags exposed to sunlight may need to be replaced every two to three months due to degradation of the bags.
- Reshape or replace sandbags as needed.
- Repair washouts or other damage as needed.
- Sediment should be removed when the sediment accumulation reaches one-third of the barrier height.
- Remove sandbags when no longer needed. Remove sediment accumulation and clean, re-grade, and stabilize the area.
- Degraded sandbags may rupture when removed. Ruptured sandbags must be cleaned up immediately to prevent the sand contents from entering into the street or storm drain system and then to our beaches.

**SOURCES FOR SANDBAG MATERIALS**

**The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA)**
While supplies last, the OCFA provides free sand and sandbags for residents. Note that bags need to be filled yourself. Residents must provide proof of Dana Point residency. Sandbags can be picked up at the following Stations serving Dana Point:
- Station No. 49: 31461 Golden Lantern Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 ([sand and sandbags, bring shovel to fill on site](#))
- Station No. 30: 23831 Stonehill Dr. Dana Point, CA 92629 ([empty sandbags only](#))
- Station No. 29: 26111 Victoria Blvd. Dana Point, CA 92629 ([empty sandbags only](#))

For additional OCFA information, please call (714) 573-6200 or visit: [www.ocfa.org/AboutUs/Departments/OperationsDirectory/Sandbags.aspx](http://www.ocfa.org/AboutUs/Departments/OperationsDirectory/Sandbags.aspx)

**The Orange County of Orange Public Works (OCPW) Storm Center**
Each year from October 1st to April 30th residents from unincorporated Orange County can obtain up to 50 free sand bags for the protection of their home from rain and mud. Contractors or commercial entities are not permitted. Sand bags are available at 2301 N. Glassell St. Orange, Ca 92865, or at seasonal staging locations (subject to conditions).

For additional OCPW information, please call (714) 955-0200 or visit [www.ocstormcenter.com](http://www.ocstormcenter.com)

**Sandbags for Purchase**
Sandbags are sold locally at the following locations:
- Ganahl Lumber: 34162 Doheny Park Road, Dana Point - (949) 496-5765
- Lowe’s: 907 Avenida Pico, San Clemente - (949) 369-4644
- White Cap Construction Supply: 33061 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano - (949) 493-9448

Please contact the stores directly for pricing and availability. Note that the bags and sand may be sold separately.