

# SANDBAGGING BASICS: SOME HELPFUL TIPS

## Here are some basic sandbagging tips from Emergency Management BC:

- Construct the sandbag dike on high ground, close to your home or building. Fewer bags will be needed, and the sandbag dike will be less exposed.
- To be effective, a dike must be three times as wide at its base as it is high.
- Sandbags should be turned right side out and filled half full. They need not be tied shut, just laid overlapping each other. Lap the unfilled portion under the next sandbag.
- The open ends of the sandbags should be facing away from the water or uphill so that the moving water will not remove the sand from the bags as readily.
- As individual bags are put in place, press firmly in place.
- Each successive layer should be set back one-half sandbag width on both sides in each additional layer so a completed dike has a triangular cross-section.

## GENERAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADVICE

### COVID-19 & SANDBAGGING

Sandbagging while following provincial health guidelines that restrict large gatherings may involve wearing protective masks, eye protection, and gloves to provide the best protection for residents. The EKEMP has implemented the following protocols to appropriately sandbag during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure physical distancing, the EKEMP is advising residents to fill one sand bag at a time without a second person holding the bag upright to align with the physical distancing order. The EKEMP understands the challenges of physical distancing while sandbagging.

- Use gloves to protect hands from chemically-treated sandbags and contaminants in sand and floodwater.
- Avoid touching your eyes and mouth at all times.
- Wash your hands and face as often as possible.
- Use safety glasses and face masks when filling up sandbags.
- Wear work boots (waterproofed if working in floodwater).
- Use waterproof gear if working in floodwater or rain.
- Use protective clothing if exposed to polluted floodwater.
- Use a personal floatation device when working near floodwater.

Come prepared to take precautionary measures to minimize the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19.



Wash and/or sanitize your hands



Cough/sneeze into your elbow, avoid touching your face



Maintain Physical distance (2m or 6 ft)



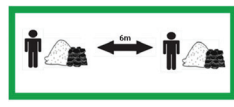
Use sanitizing wipes or gloves to sanitize equipment



Avoid crowds



Avoid contact with common surfaces



Sand will be placed 6m apart to allow for physical distancing

## Building a sandbag dike

It takes two people about one hour to fill and place 100 sandbags, giving you a 1-x-20-foot wall. Make sure you have enough sand, burlap or plastic bags, shovels and time to properly prepare. Contact your local government for information on obtaining sandbags.

### BAGS REQUIRED PER 100 LINEAR FEET OF DIKE

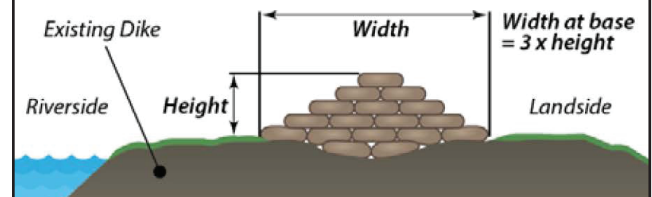
Height above dike	Bags required
1/3 metre	600
2/3 metre	2,000
1 metre	3,400



Plan of bottom layer



Method of lapping bags



## EKEMP SANDBAG STATIONS & COVID-19

The EKEMP will, as needed, have designated Sandbag Stations for the public to fill sandbags to protect their property during spring freshet. EKEMP Sandbag Stations will follow guidelines set by the Ministry of Health regarding physical distancing.

The EKEMP has developed a process where individuals can fill sandbags in a public environment while following safety guidelines from the Ministry of Health.

- Proper personal protection equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 is advised (gloves, face mask, eye protection).
- Avoid crowding at sandbag locations, line up 2 metres apart, and ensure vehicles are parked at designated parking areas to minimize overcrowding within the Sandbag Station.
- Sand piles will be placed six metres apart to maintain physical distancing for sandbagging at EKEMP Sandbag Stations.
- Bring your own equipment and restrict sharing between persons – the EKEMP is not able to provide a mechanism to clean personal equipment.

Please ensure you are following physical distancing guidelines when filling sandbags.

For current information regarding COVID-19, please visit [www.covid-19.bccdc.ca](http://www.covid-19.bccdc.ca)

## EAST KOOTENAY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PARTNERS:

