



Policy #	0340-31-Sandbag Policy
Issued	August 2006
Amended	August 2024
Policy Owner	Emergency Management

## SANDBAG POLICY

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### PURPOSE

To guide the provisioning of sandbags and other flood response measures by FVRD during flood events in advance of routine flooding within the Regional District's Electoral Areas.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. As per the Provincial Flood Emergency Plan (last updated May 2019): "Individuals and businesses will make efforts to protect their property and possessions from flooding if time allows and if it is safe to do so. This may include removing hazardous materials, moving possessions out of lower levels of their homes/dwellings and placing sandbags provided by the First Nation or Community or local authority to protect their properties."
2. As per Section 16 of the provincial Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation: "Assistance for an accepted claim may be reduced or denied if, in the minister's opinion, the claimant took no sufficient action to protect the claimant's property before, during, or after the occurrence of a disaster."
3. Home and landowners are decision-makers of their property and therefore are responsible for its protection. (BC Provincial Flood Plan, 6.1)

### GENERAL PROCESS GUIDANCE

Given the limited availability and frequency of sandbags that can be ordered from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), sandbags may be made available to residents in advance of need from designated self-service public pickup locations. FVRD does not have a delivery service for sand or sandbags, nor does FVRD have a Public Works service. Personal preparedness is key to ensuring private property protection.

#### Private Property

1. FVRD Emergency Management may deploy sand and sandbags to designated Electoral Area sandbag stations as needed and not more than twice annually, as made available by EMCR. These are located at accessible public locations that are accessible 24/7. These locations will be advertised and shown on our public website.
2. Sandbagging of private property is the responsibility of the owner/occupant. Labour assistance is not provided by FVRD staff, volunteers, or provincial resources (e.g. BC Wildfire Service crews). Property owners/occupants are responsible for obtaining sandbags at public locations, purchasing sand if sand is not available, filling sandbags, sandbagging their property.
3. Property owners/occupants are responsible for the disposal of all sand and sandbags once flood waters have receded. Sandbags exposed to flood waters are considered biohazardous waste. FVRD transfer stations cannot accept sand or sandbag disposal. Disposal is to be arranged independently of FVRD.

4. Locations where sand has been deployed will have signage posted to indicate that the sand is for public use, to inform users that residents are responsible for disposal, provide contact information for how to report emptiness or damage.
5. In accordance with the British Columbia Emergency Management (BCEMS) Response Goals, protecting overall public health and critical infrastructure is prioritized ahead of the protection of private property. If sand and sandbags are required for protecting FVRD or other public infrastructure (such as water treatment plants or other facilities), these needs will take precedence.
6. Fraser Valley Regional District will not be liable to any person or entity for loss or damages of any kind, including economic loss, caused by the sandbags or as a result of insufficient availability, supply, or quantity of sandbags or how the sandbags are used.
7. Emergency Management staff will have each location inspected for site safety once per year, and will rely on the public to report concerns. Additional inspections may occur if triggered by safety-related complaints.
8. This policy does not limit operational flexibility of the FVRD Emergency Operations Centre during emergency response efforts.

## PUBLIC SANDBAGGING STATIONS

Area B: Laidlaw | Old Hunter Creek Rest Stop beside the FVRD SeaCans

49°15'05.4"N 121°57'18.9"W

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Site is MOTI Owned, FVRD operated. MOTI Permit # 2023-01055.

FVRD owns the concrete barricades and signage. The permits are to be renewed on a 5-year cycle.



Area C: Harrison Mills | junction of Lougheed Hwy & Chehalis FSR

49°21'09.7"N 121°34'52.4"W

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Site is MOTI Owned, FVRD operated. MOTI Permit # 2023-01053.

FVRD owns the concrete barricades and signage. The permits are to be renewed on a 5-year cycle.



Third Site to serve the Area E and H Communities

Location To Be Determined

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Site to be determined.

## Signage

Signage locations will be signed using a common approach to signage as demonstrated in the image below.



## REFERENCE

This policy makes reference to:

- » [Provincial Flood Emergency Plan](#);
- » [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#); and
- » [BC Emergency Management System Response Goals](#).