



## 4.02 PROVISION OF SANDBAGS

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### 4.02.1 GENERAL

Provision of sandbags policy describes the provision and funding of sandbags or provincially owned sandbag machines and the reimbursement of costs incurred for sand, rental of sandbag machines and other expenses directly related to the use of sandbags during flood response activities. This policy does not allow the use of sandbags for the creation of permanent flood protection works.

Sandbags are the primary option used in imminent flood threat works when deemed appropriate by local emergency program staff.

**Related Policies:**

N/A

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### 4.02.2 DEFINITIONS

See [Terms and Definitions](#)

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### 4.02.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) The Province will maintain a provincial stockpile of sandbags to supplement the needs of local governments (in this case defined as local authorities, First Nation communities and their respective Band Councils), and provincial ministries.
- (2) EMBC will provide sandbags to local governments upon request to construct imminent flood threat works.
- (3) The Province will reimburse local governments for the purchase of sandbags and sand, the rental of sandbag machines and incremental labour costs directly related to the use of sandbags according to the "Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs; A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations."
- (4) The Province will reimburse local governments for the disposal of sandbags and fill material according to the "Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery; A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations."

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### 4.02.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) EMBC will provide sandbags to be held and distributed by local governments as follows:
  - a. In the readiness phase of spring freshet or fall flood season.



- b. When the threat of flooding is imminent.
  - c. During a flood incident response for which EMBC has issued a task number.
- (2) Local governments are responsible for requesting, storing, distributing, filling, and disposing of sandbags provided by EMBC.
- (3) Sandbags are not to be returned to EMBC once they have been issued to a local government predetermined staging area.
- (4) Sandbags must be disposed of according to sections 45-47, 77, and 79 of the *Environmental Management Act*. It is noted that, where sandbags are contaminated with hazardous waste or dangerous goods, recipients must retain the services of a hazardous waste removal company for their disposal.
- (5) Reimbursement of sandbagging costs when materials, equipment and labour is purchased directly by a local government, shall be calculated using the unit rate paid by EMBC for sandbags in inventory or the actual rate paid by the local government, whichever is the lesser.

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#### **4.02.5 AUTHORITIES**

[Emergency Program Act](#)

[Environmental Management Act](#)

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Chris Duffy  
A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC

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#### **4.02.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- [Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs; A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations](#)