

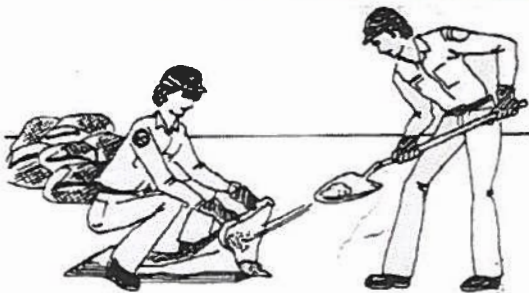
HOW TO:

Fill a sandbag

&

build a sandbag barrier

a. Work with another person, with one of you holding the bag while the other shovels sand or other material. The first shovelful is placed on the edge of the bag to keep the bag open. The bag holder should bend at the waist, with elbows resting on the knees. The shoveler gets rounded scoops of sand and fills the bag to **just one-third full**. Avoid injury by not twisting while shoveling.



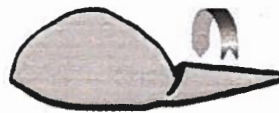
b. Fold over the open end of the bag in a triangle to prevent sand from leaking out. Close-knit burlap bags are recommended.



c. Your finished bags will look like this:

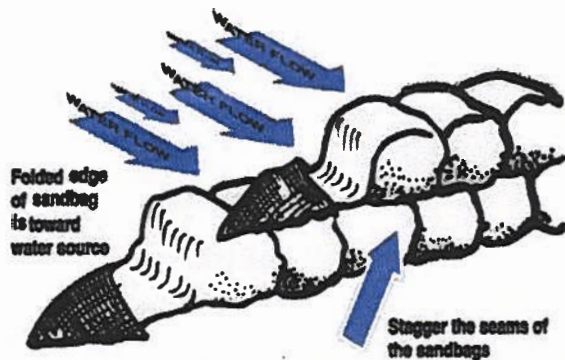


sandbag, 1/3 full, open end folded over - top view

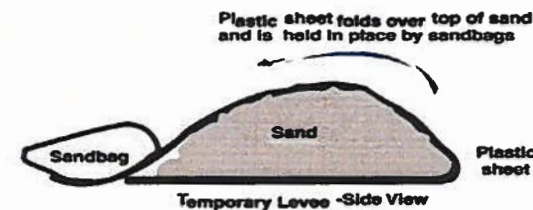
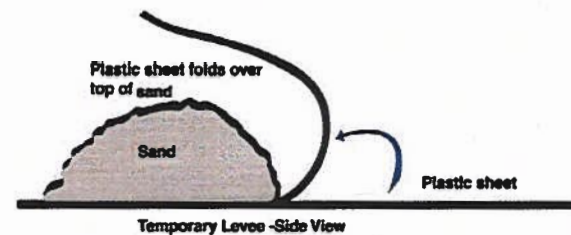


sandbag, open end folded over - side view

d. Place a line of bags with the folded side up, with folded edges facing the direction of water flow. Stomp each bag into place. Like you would with bricks, stagger the next layer of bags over the folded tops of the bags. To give the structure stability the base should be 1.5 times wider than the height. (Example: 6 ft. wide by 4 ft. high)



e. When you don't have time to build a sandbag barrier, use a temporary levee to raise low areas. Prepare ahead by buying 20-foot-wide sheets of plastic (6-10 mil thickness). Lay out the length you need and place sand, dirt, or gravel on the half facing your property. Fold over the other half and place a solid row of sandbags on the edge of the plastic to anchor the top edge of the plastic sheet.



f. In locations where water could rise with no current, such as at lake shores, lay visquine plastic on the ground and up to walls, and form a half pyramid of sandbags. Cover doors and vents with plywood.





Suggested placement for sandbags
lay plastic bags or tarp down first