

Jefferson County Sandbag Policy

Purpose: The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure that sandbags are available to Jefferson County to adequately respond to flooding emergencies or disasters in order to protect essential public property within Jefferson County. The secondary purpose is to assist residents of Jefferson County by making sandbags available to protect private property, when the availability of sandbag supplies allows.

Jefferson County will maintain a supply of approximately 100,000 sandbags, including a strategic reserve of 30,000 bags. It is the responsibility of the Emergency Management Coordinator to track the distribution of sandbags and to maintain supply.

Commissioner approval is required to distribute sandbags from the strategic reserve.

Priority: Jefferson County will make sandbags available as supplies warrant, in the following priority;

- Sandbags and material which are County property will be available to those County departments for the protection of public property within the County.
- Sandbags will be provided to requesting jurisdictions as long as bags are available in excess of the strategic reserve, with the understanding that the requesting jurisdiction will replace bags as soon as is practical.
- Once it has been determined that public property is adequately protected as listed above any extra sandbags will be available for public purchase at current County cost following the priorities below:
 - For the protection of life;
 - For the protection of private property; and
 - For the protection of the environment.

The sole responsibility for protection of private property in the event of a flood lies with individual property owners and not with Jefferson County. Sandbags and sand are available, inexpensively, at most hardware and home improvement stores. In the event of large scale flooding, Jefferson County cannot guarantee the availability of sandbags to private property owners. Therefore, reliance on the County to provide sandbags should not be considered as the primary means of protection. Owners of properties at risk of flooding are therefore encouraged to keep, where possible, their own stock of sandbags and sand to fill the bags at times of potential flooding.

Procedure: In the event of flooding the citizens of Jefferson County can call the Emergency Management Coordinator at 745-0868 to see the current availability of sandbags and the current cost.

Proper disposal of sandbags is the responsibility of the property owners and not Jefferson County.