

PREPARING FOR STORMS

There are steps you can take to prepare for winter storms and flooding:

1. **Keep** sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for water proofing. Properly filled and placed, sandbags can act as a barrier to divert moving water around buildings.
2. **Purchase** a NOAA weather radio which sounds a tone alarm when a severe weather announcement is issued or emergency alerts are broadcast. For more information visit www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/ .
3. **Remove** debris from drains and culverts around your building to prevent or minimize flooding. More tips can be found at <http://www.floodsmart.gov> .
4. **Keep** a flashlight, portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries on hand in case the power is out.
5. **Check** your insurance policy for flood insurance coverage. Purchase coverage if you think you need it.
6. **Move** valuables to higher ground, away from areas that could potentially flood.

DRIVING IN THE RAIN

Roads are slickest when it first starts to rain. To prevent accidents reduce your speed; turn on low beam headlights and wipers; stay in the middle lanes (water tends to pool in outside lanes); and avoid swerving and abrupt braking. Do not drive through standing water if you don't know how deep it is. **Turn around, don't drown!** Water may be very deep in a flooded area. For more information, visit <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tadd/> .

To avoid hydroplaning, slow down in wet weather. Should you find your car hydroplaning keep both hands on the steering wheel; ease your foot off the accelerator; don't slam on the brakes—gently apply pressure; and steer gently in the direction you want the car to go.

STORM SPOTTER PROGRAM

A storm spotter is a person who observes significant weather and relays the information to the National Weather Service (NWS) by phone. When spotters note a significant weather event, either from their homes or on the road, they call an 800 number and relay the information. The information provided by spotters helps the NWS formulate and pinpoint advisories or warnings—information that can potentially save lives. If you are interested in becoming a spotter, please contact the NWS at (858) 675-8700.

Encinitas is proud to be:



Winter Weather and Flood Preparedness



City of Encinitas

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HOW TO USE SANDBAGS

Properly filled and placed, sandbags can act as a barrier to divert moving water around instead of through buildings.

Untied sandbags are recommended for most situations. Tied sandbags should be used only for special occasions when pre-filling and stockpiling may be required or for specific purposes such as filling holes, holding objects in position or to form barriers backed by supportive planks.

The most commonly used bags are burlap sacks, but there are also polypropylene bags available in many stores. Empty bags can be stockpiled for emergency use and will be serviceable for several years.

How To Fill A Sandbag



A heavy bodied or sandy soil is the most desirable for filling sandbags. Gravelly or rocky soils are generally poor choices.

A single row of sandbags three layers high will form a stable barrier, but if additional height is necessary, the pyramid placement technique should be utilized.

Filling sandbags is a two-person operation: One member of the team should place the empty bag between or slightly in front of widespread feet with arms extended. The throat of the bag is

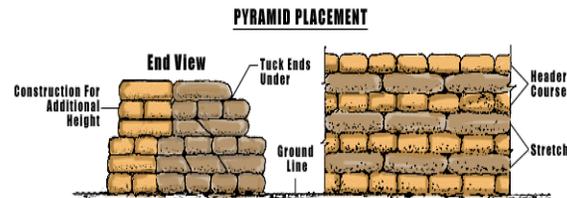
folded to form a collar and held with the hands in a position that will enable the other team member to empty a rounded shovel full of material into the open end. Bags should not be filled more than half full or less than one third of their capacity.

Remove any debris from the area where the bags are to be placed. Place the filled bags lengthwise and parallel to the direction of the flow. Fold the open end of the unfilled portion of the bag to form a triangle. If tied bags are used, flatten or flare the tied end.

Placement



Place succeeding bags on the folded or flared portion of the previous bag and stamp into place to eliminate voids and form a tight seal. Stagger the joint connections when multiple layers are necessary. For unsupported layers over three courses high, use the pyramid placement method:



Place the sandbags to form a pyramid by alternating header courses (bags placed crosswise) and stretcher courses (bags placed lengthwise). Stamp each bag in place, overlap sacks, maintain staggered joint placement and tuck under any loose ends.

Coastal North County Sandbag Vendors

The Public Works Department periodically hosts sandbag giveaway events at the Public Works facility at 160 Calle Magdalena. Check www.encinitasca.gov for specific dates.

Residents must provide photo identification and show proof of residency. A water bill or electric bill is acceptable, which shows the customer's address. Please check in at the front counter. 10 sandbags will be given for each address/property (while supplies last). Residents must self-load and transport the sandbags; the City does not provide this service.

Sandbags may be purchased at local vendors. The following is a sample of vendors who may offer sandbags for purchase:

Grangetto's Farm and Garden Supply
189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas
(760) 944-5777

RCP Company
577 N. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas
(760) 753-1164

*The City of Encinitas does not endorse or recommend any product or company. This list is for information only and additional companies may be found in telephone directories. Please call the store for the latest information regarding prices and availability.

Information and tips provided in this brochure courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Diego County Office of Emergency Services and the Encinitas Fire Department.