CUPERTINO CERT INFORMATION SHEET

Sandbagging for Flood Control

Introduction:

Flooding is usually caused by extreme weather conditions and to a lesser degree may be caused by dam failures or broken water lines. The source of water which floods a building or other valuable property must be stopped or blocked before water removal operations can be effective. Even though sandbags are not watertight, they are usually adequate as emergency -flood barriers for blocking and changing the direction of flowing water.

Information:

Sandbags are usually burlap bags containing sand or soil. Bags are usually filled on site rather than being delivered pre-filled. Bags vary in size from 18" to 24" long by 12" to 18" wide. Most county and city public works yards have a stockpile of empty bags. These bags are usually made available to the community during emergencies, at no charge. The yards will not deliver bags to citizens.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preparation for use

1. Bags should be about half-filled with sand or soil and should weigh less than fifty pounds. Heavier bags are more difficult to place and will rapidly exhaust workers.

2. When filling, leave enough space to fold the open flap under the bag as it is placed.

Placing the sandbags.

1. Place the first tier of bags end to end, folding the open end under the bag.

2. Stamp the bags firmly in place to increase water resistance at joints.

3. Place the second and third tiers so that the joints overlap the lower tiers. Drop bags into place from about 8" height to aid stamping.

C. Bagging higher than three layers.

1. A stable wall, three layers high, (about one foot) can be formed, without additional support.
2. Above three layers, a pyramid shape is recommended for stability.

Note: 28 bags are recommended for 9 layers