How To Construct
A Sandbag Emergency Levee

How To Fill Sandbags:
Fill sandbags 1/2 to 2/3 full, tie at top so bag will lay flat when put in place.
(Overfilled bags leave gaps in levee allowing water to seep through.)

Right

Wrong

1/2 Full

Full

Weight
35-40 LBS.

Weight
70-75 LBS.

Placing Sandbags:
Sandbags should be placed flat on ground, overlapped, tamped into place, and stairstepped.

Right

Wrong

Elevation
Stairstepped

Plan
Overlapped

Elevation
Bag on end

Plan
Not Overlapped

Polyethylene:
Polyethylene (poly) comes in rolls 20 ft. wide and 100 ft. long. It's used to wrap sandbag levees to prevent seepage. Poly should be placed on downstream portion of levee first, then worked upstream with a two to three foot overlap. Poly is held in place with sandbags.

Estimated number of sandbags and tons of sand per linear foot of emergency levee. Multiple these numbers by the number of feet of levee to be constructed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height in Feet</th>
<th>No. Bags Required</th>
<th>Tons of Sand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Five feet is the practical limit of a sandbag levee. If a higher levee is needed, alternate means of construction should be considered.

Note: Preferred levee limit is 3 feet high.