



## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

2095 MAIN STREET / P.O. BOX 936

FERNDALE, WA 98248

(360) 384-4006

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### **SANDBAG POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

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#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that sandbags are available to the City of Ferndale to adequately respond to flooding emergencies or disasters in order to protect essential public property within Ferndale and ensure needed municipal functions. The secondary purpose is to assist private citizens by making sandbags available to protect private property, when the availability of sandbag materials and supplies allows.

#### **PRIORITY**

The City of Ferndale will make sandbags and associated flood abatement materials available as supplies warrant, in the following priority order:

1. The first priority will be to make sandbags available to government agencies for the protection of public property within the City of Ferndale. Examples of public property include, but are not limited to the following: roads, bridges, water or sewer pumping stations and treatment facilities, municipal and emergency services buildings.
2. Once it has been determined that public property is adequately protected as listed above, any extra or surplus sandbags or materials will be made available and divided equitably to private citizens for use within the corporate limits of Ferndale. The availability of sandbags for private use will be prioritized in order as follows:
  - a. For the protection of life;
  - b. For the protection private property; and
  - c. For the protection of the environment.
3. Once it has been determined that the second priority has been met, any remaining sandbags or supplies will be made available to private citizens for use outside the corporate limits of Ferndale, in the order as noted below:
  - a. For the protection of life;
  - b. For the protection private property; and
  - c. For the protection of the environment.

Whatcom County residents in need of sandbags should first contact the Whatcom County Public Works Operations and Maintenance division.

#### **PROCEDURE**

The City of Ferndale will establish locations where sand and sandbags are made available to the public, when applicable based on the priorities noted above. Those wishing to obtain sandbags should bring their own gloves and shovels, and are expected to fill and transport the bags they need. Sandbag fill sites will not be opened until a "Flood Warning" is issued by the National Weather Service and is deemed necessary by City of Ferndale Public Works Officials.



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#### **POLICY**

The City of Ferndale will only open sandbag distribution sites in anticipation of continuous and extended rainfall and flood conditions where severe and widespread flooding is expected to occur. Due to the lead-time needed to set up distribution sites, it is not effective to operate sites unless extreme conditions pose an imminent threat to life or property. If your property has a history of flooding or recurring standing water during rain events and less severe flood conditions, you are encouraged to get sand and sandbags in advance of the rainy season and have these supplies on hand throughout the fall, winter and early spring. These supplies are available, inexpensively, at most hardware and home improvement stores.