



Sandbag policy

In the event of fluvial (river) and/or groundwater flood containment/prevention

This document details the policy of Wycombe District Council with regards to the deployment of sandbags to prevent or contain floodwaters from rivers or groundwater.

The sole responsibility for protection of private property in the event of a flood lies with individual owners and not the district council or any other agency. The council does however have permissive powers in relation to flood defence and will use those powers where appropriate to support local communities in preparing for and dealing with floodwater.

The deployment of sandbags will be decided with regards to the following priorities:

1. to prevent loss of life or serious injury
2. maintaining access for emergency services
3. protecting vital facilities within the community
4. protection of residential property within the district
5. protection of Wycombe district property if appropriate
6. protection of business/commercial property within the district.

The decision to deploy sandbags will be made in two ways:

1. If a flood event is anticipated sandbags will be delivered to those locations and residential properties deemed 'at risk' of being affected by floodwater. The district council will maintain a register of these locations and properties.
2. Requests for provision of sandbags can be made to the District Council on a telephone number published by the council (01494 461 000). The Emergency Response Duty Officer or the Emergency Planning Officer will authorise distribution of sandbags in accordance with the priorities above.

Wycombe District Council will maintain a stock of sandbags to meet the emergency needs of the district and will work closely with Buckinghamshire County Council and other agencies during a flood event. The council will support and encourage local communities and businesses to prepare their own flood risk action plan to deal with emergencies likely to affect them.

No guarantee can be given that sandbags will be delivered within a specific timescale. The property owner/occupier is responsible for placing sandbags and providing other preventative measures such as plastic sheeting.