



1035 First Ave West  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
OFFICE: 406.751.8200  
FAX: 406.751.8210  
EMAIL: [planningweb@flathead.mt.gov](mailto:planningweb@flathead.mt.gov)  
WEB: [flathead.mt.gov/planning\\_zoning](http://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning)

## INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT - SANDBAGGING IN FLOODPLAINS

**The temporary placement of sandbags within the regulated Special Flood Hazard Area (also known as the 100-year floodplain) for flood control during a flooding emergency does not require a floodplain development permit from the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office, but must be removed within 30 days after the event.**

However, please note the following:

- After the flooding emergency has passed, sandbags and sand placed in the regulated Special Flood Hazard Area (also known as the 100-year floodplain) must be removed within 30 days after the event.
- It is the property owner's responsibility to remove and dispose of sandbags. Sandbag and materials must be properly disposed of outside of the SFHA.
- If sandbags and sand are placed in the regulated Special Flood Hazard Area (also known as the 100-year floodplain) and you want to keep them permanently, you must apply for and receive a Floodplain Development Permit from the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office.
  - Note that depending on where the artificial obstruction is located, it may require certification of proper design by a licensed engineer or architect to receive a floodplain development permit.
  - Also note that depending on the scope of the project, it may additionally require approval from the State of Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Please feel free to contact the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office at (406) 751-8200 with questions regarding the Flathead County Floodplain and Floodway Management Regulations.
- It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure all other applicable agency's requirements are met. You should contact the Flathead Conservation District at (406) 752-4220 to determine if an emergency authorization is required.