

Flood Response Activity Summary based on COVID-19 Constraints

Overview

- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic this flood season, Safe Work Procedures are being finalized to ensure the safety of all flood response workers.
- The following precautions are being incorporated into these procedures: social distancing of minimum of 6 feet (2 meters), use of the appropriate PPE equipment, alteration to work methods, regular disinfecting of surfaces, ensuring workers who are sick self-isolate for 14 days, and planning for a number of workers to be sick at the same time.
- A co-ordinated approach is underway with the construction industry, suppliers, and consultants to ensure the safety of everyone involved in flood response efforts.
- Examples of two flood response activities where the work methods have been revised to allow the work to continue safely include: sandbag dike construction and sandbag production.

Building a Sandbag Dike

When building a sandbag dike, two options are available to ensure adequate spacing between workers.

Option 1

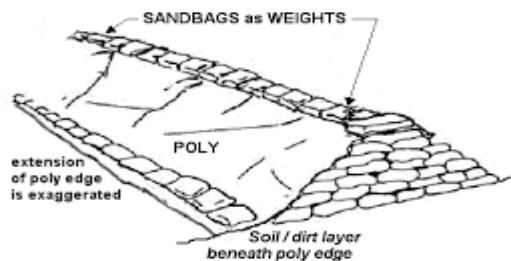
For building a small dike, a two-person team system can be used.

While maintaining separation, the workers will roll out the poly and stake in place.

Each worker will load pre-filled bags in a wheel barrel, transport bags to work area, and place them.

Individual workers will maintain separation by being at alternate locations in the process; one worker will be placing bags while the other worker is loading their wheelbarrow.

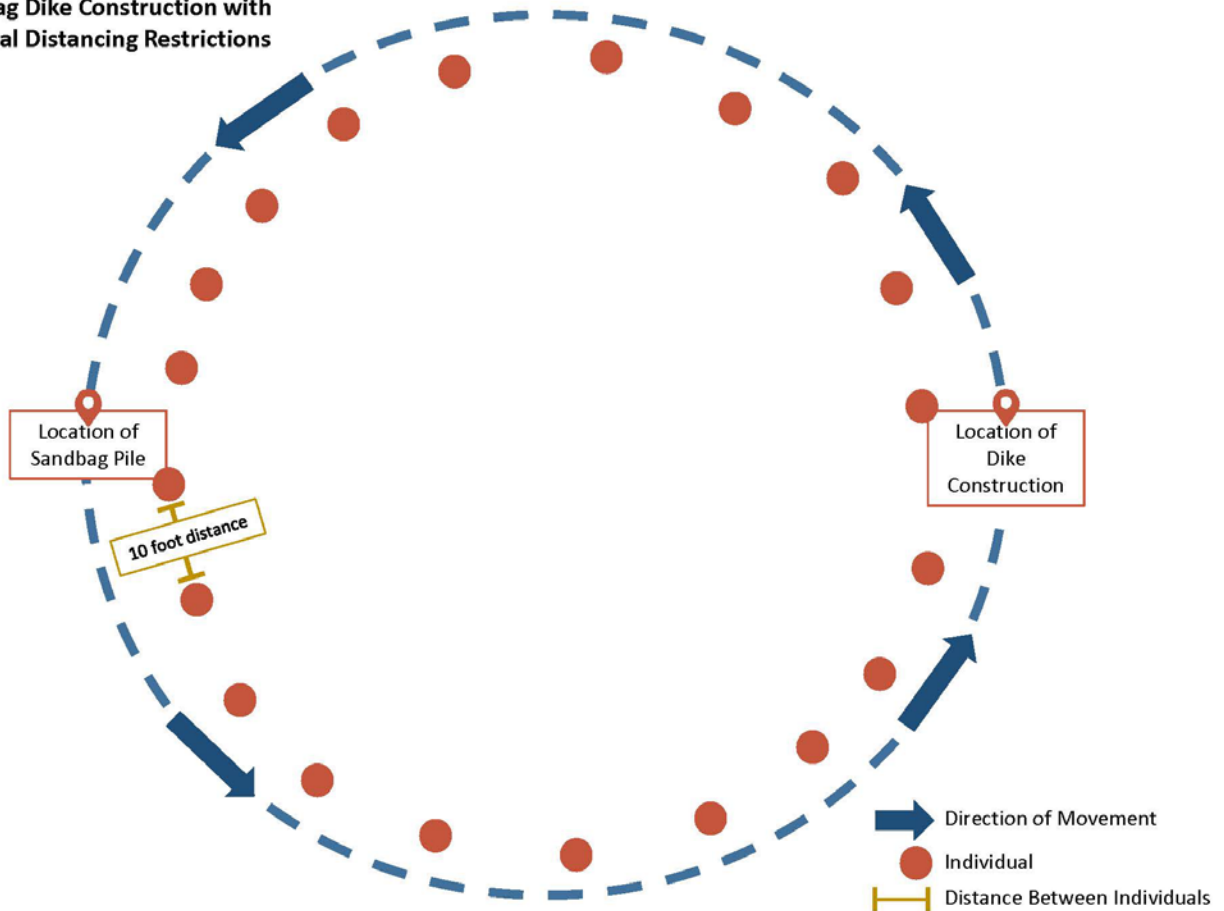
This will keep distance between both staff.



Option 2

For larger dikes that require more staff, a 'carousel' practice will be used.

Sandbag Dike Construction with Physical Distancing Restrictions



One worker will roll out poly.

A second worker will then stake the poly in place 3 to 4 meters behind the first worker.

The remainder of workers will space themselves out at 3 to 4 meters apart in a circle formation.

Worker will take a sandbag from a stockpile and proceed to dike area along the circular path and place the sandbag at the dike. They will move to the right or left about 3 to 4 meters following the circle and ultimately returning to stockpile while maintaining space between workers. Workers will continue to move the line and sandbags along to complete the dike in a 'carousel' fashion.

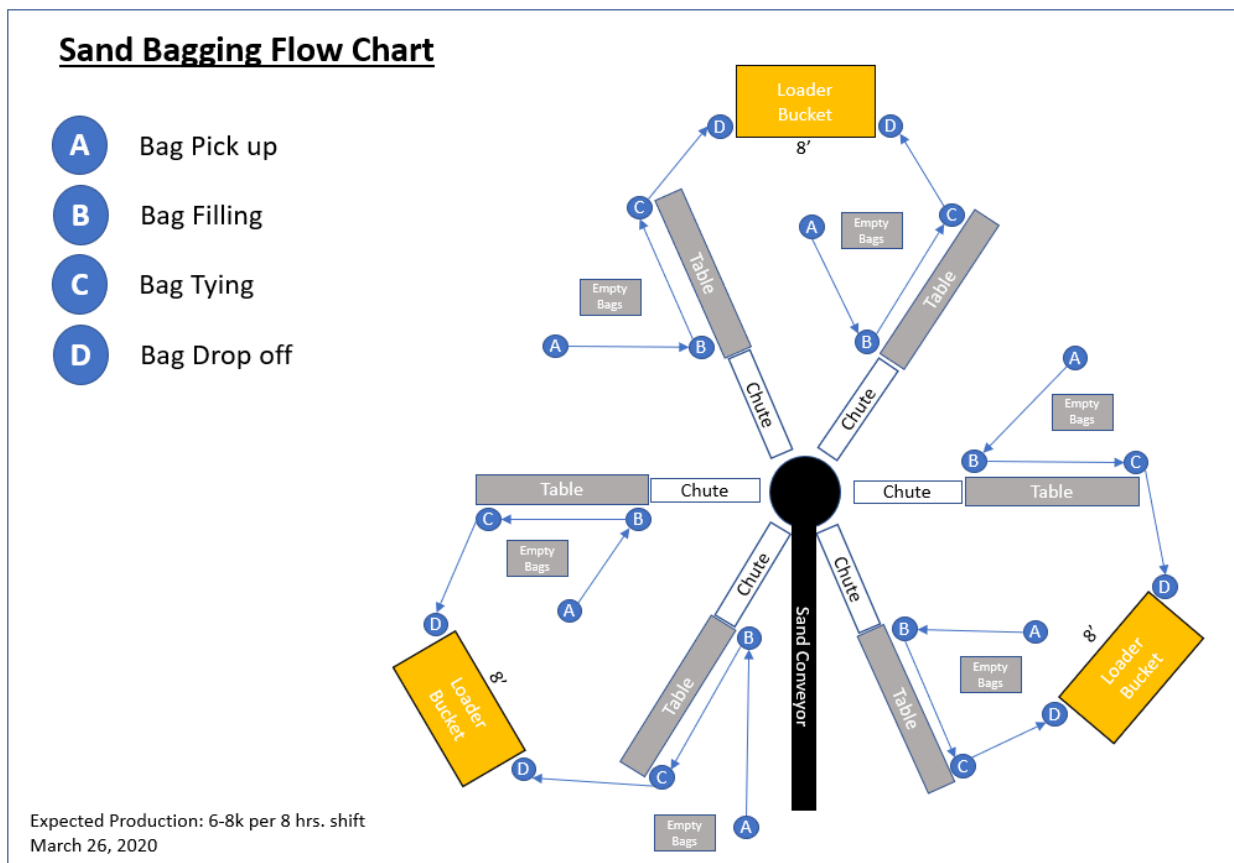
Sandbag Production

The province will use the City of Winnipeg sandbag production process shown below.

For the production of sandbags, only 6 of the 12 available chutes on the sandbag machine will be in use. The process for filling of bags is as follows:

- Person moves to Position A and takes an empty sandbag
- Person moves to Position B and fills sandbag from the chute
- Person moves to Position C and ties sandbag
- Person moves to Position D and drops sandbag into loader bucket
- Person moves to Position A and re-starts circuit

There will be 4 to 5 workers performing this circuit at each chute while maintaining appropriate social distancing.



**Courtesy of City of Winnipeg