

normal business hours. Our after hour number is (509) 527-7146. You can also write to the following address:

**District Engineer  
Department of the Army  
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Emergency Management Branch  
201 North 3rd Ave.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876**

When the request is received, the sponsor will be contacted and promptly advised if Corps assistance is appropriate. If the problem is within our authority, personnel may be sent to investigate and recommend appropriate action.

Written assurances are required from the local sponsor before assistance can be provided. If an emergency condition has been determined to exist by the District Engineer, work may proceed without assurances if the situation warrants. Assurances are similar to the following:

- Provide, without cost to the United States, all lands, easements, and rights-of way necessary for the construction of the emergency flood control works.
- Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the emergency flood control works.

When the emergency work will result in structures that may be considered permanent, assurance to maintain the project shall also be obtained similar to the following:

- Maintain and operate all the emergency flood control works after completion, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.

A sponsor's maintenance obligation requires a permanent right-of-way easement from the landowner, but does not require conveyance of any property to the United States.

For flood emergency assistance in areas located outside of the Walla Walla District boundary, contact:

**District Engineer  
Department of the Army - Seattle District  
P.O. Box C-3755  
4735 East Marginal Way South  
Seattle, WA 98124-2255  
(206) 764-3406**

**District Engineer  
Department of the Army - Portland District  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, OR 97208-2946  
(503) 326-6099**

If you wish additional information, please contact us at:

Walla Walla District  
Corps of Engineers  
201 North 3rd Ave.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Emergency Management Branch  
Phone: (509) 527-7141



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Walla Walla District

# Flood Emergency Assistance

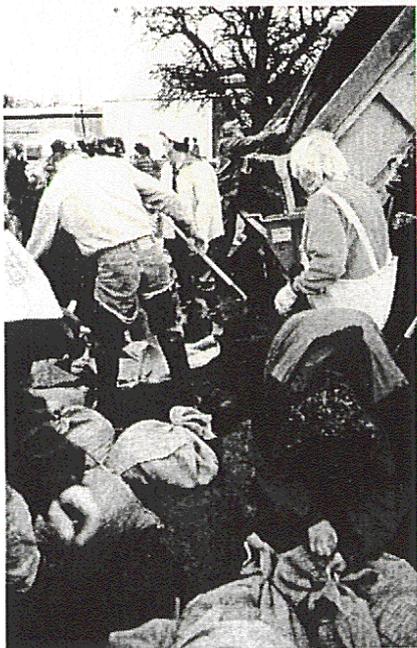


## Flood Emergency Responsibilities

The first responsibility for protecting homes and property from flood damage rests with the individual. Local governments and agencies, such as flood control districts, may share in this responsibility and together form the community's first line of defense in preventing flood damage.

Occasionally, however, local resources are not able to contain or control a flood emergency situation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood disaster assistance program is intended to supplement and assist local governments, institutions, and special purpose districts when more help is needed.

When an impending disaster is greater than the capability of local or state agencies, the Corps of Engineers has the authority under Public Law 84-99 to provide emergency flood protection of limited scope. We can provide assistance for flood emergency preparation, flood fighting, the repair and restoration of flood control works threatened or destroyed by a flood, or emergency water supplies. Assistance may also include providing technical assistance, equipment,



s a n d b a g s , pumps, or other materials for an imminent or actual flood emergency.

Our Assistance is intended to be supplemental and not a replacement for community self-help, and requires a written request for assistance from a local sponsor. No assistance can be provided directly to individuals.

The sponsoring agency can be a state, county, or city or other entity

fully authorized to provide requirements of local cooperation and to pay any local share of the costs. Since most emergency work is to provide protection for an immediate situation, our authority does not extend to the reimbursement of flood fighting expenditures incurred by state or local authorities, or flood and debris cleanup, or the removal of temporary flood control structures.

## Emergency Assistance Available

The sponsoring agency can request a flood emergency declaration and retain full control of a flood fight or request us to work in an assigned sector. Federal regulations preclude Federal employees from working under the direct supervision of the sponsoring agency. On request, we may assume a leadership role and direct flood fighting efforts.

The Corps of Engineers can provide emergency assistance under the following four categories.

- Flood fight assistance
- Rehabilitation of existing flood control structures
- Advance measures
- Emergency water supplies

### Flood Fight Assistance

Flood fighting includes strengthening existing flood control works, construction of temporary works such as earthen dikes and mud boxes, or sandbagging low-lying areas. We maintain a limited stockpile of sandbags and other flood fighting materials intended to augment the stocks of local jurisdictions during actual flood emergency situations.

It is the responsibility of local governments and flood control districts to maintain a supply of sandbags adequate to cover anticipated emergencies. In the event we issue sandbags to a local government, unused stocks must be returned as soon as the emergency condition is over. Consumed supplies must be replaced in kind or be paid for by local interest.

### Rehabilitation of Existing Flood Control Structures

Rehabilitation and restoration work is limited to flood control works damaged or destroyed by a flood. The damage cannot have been as a result of poor or deficient maintenance. The rehabilitated structure will normally be designed to provide the same degree of protection as the original structure, and the repair work must be economically justified. Local interests must submit requests for rehabilitation assistance to repair damaged flood control projects within 30 days after the flood event that caused the damage.

The Corps of Engineers will bear 100 percent of the construction costs to rehabilitate federally authorized and constructed projects. The Corps will bear up to 80 percent of the construction costs to rehabilitate non-Federal projects (not authorized by Congress). The remaining costs will be the responsibility of the local sponsor.

## Advance Measures

When a flood is forecast or predicted and a written request is received from the Governor, the Corps of Engineers can initiate work to protect against loss of life or to prevent damages to improved property. Advance measures can be taken to protect against the threat of possible flooding caused by failure of flood protective works, channel obstructions (ice jams, snags), potential dam failure, or abnormal snowpack.

We can also provide technical assistance to state and local agencies, loan stockpiled supplies and equipment, construct temporary dikes, sandbag, or assume operational control or direction of the emergency work.

## Emergency Water Supplies

Upon receipt of a written request from the Governor, the Corps of Engineers may provide emergency supplies of clean drinking water to any community with a source of contaminated drinking water causing, or likely to cause, a substantial threat to the public health. The contamination may be accidental, deliberate, or caused by natural events. Our authority is limited to emergency supplies of drinking water and does not include other municipal or commercial water uses.

Emergency water assistance is intended as a temporary measure until the locality is able to assume responsibility. In certain cases, we can also provide assistance to farmers and ranchers for stock water within a designated drought-distressed area. This drought assistance does not include providing water for crop irrigation.

## Periodic Inspection of Completed Works

The Corps of Engineers conducts inspections at no cost to the local interests to assess the level and effectiveness of protection provided by flood protective works such as levees and pump stations. The inspections serve an important purpose of acquainting local officials and Corps personnel with potential problem areas, maintenance deficiencies, and borrow material sources for use during emergency conditions. Special onsite inspections may be conducted at any time during the year, such as immediately following a period of high water or upon request from the local flood control officials.

## How to Obtain Assistance

If a flood problem is beyond state and local capabilities, local officials may request assistance by either calling the Walla Walla District, Emergency Management Branch, at (509) 527-7141 (or 7143, 7144, and 7145) during