

Eddleston Village Flood Protection Coordination

"Floodsax" innovative sandbags

The Community Council's master Flood Protection plan and the advice to residents derived from it make much of the problems associated with conventional sandbags. Despite this some residents in vulnerable properties continue to store sandbags, largely unprotected, at their house. When they attempt to deploy them in the event of a flash flood they will learn a bitter lesson.

In order to overcome this and the many other drawbacks of conventional sandbags (CSB's) the Emergency Planning department of SBC have provided us with a stock of "Floodsax" bags. They, together with this advice sheet, will be distributed to residents in properties at risk of flooding and to flood prevention volunteers. The virtues of "Floodsax" are:-

- As delivered they are lightweight (ca.200g) and vacuum packed in fives.
- They are therefore easily stored and so ready for rapid deployment
- "Floodsax" absorb water to become several thousand times their original weight
- "Floodsax" can be used externally, at doors & air-vents, to deflect water flow
- "Floodsax" can be used internally to absorb seepage under doors or block backflow of lavatory pans
- "Floodsax" are durable (they have a 5 year shelf-life)
- "Floodsax" are biodegradable so readily disposed of after use

I have a DVD demonstrating their properties that you're welcome to borrow. The firm have a website (Google "Floodsax") that expands on this brief description. I have one unpacked "Floodsax" available for inspection.

Allocation

SBC have provided 140 "Floodsax" FOC for use by the residents in vulnerable properties. This equates to an allocation of 14 "Floodsax"/property. Since one of their virtues is partially lost once the original vacuum pack is broken I propose that the 7 boxes, each containing 4 vacuum packs of 5 "Floodsax" are distributed as follows:-

1. One box to Nos. 1-7
2. One box to Nos. 6-10
3. One box to nos. 9-13
4. One box to Nos. 15-21
5. One box to Nos. 16-22

To cater for the small anomalies in this distribution and have an "emergency" reserve I will retain 2 boxes. I emphasise that the vulnerable properties and volunteers together comprise a self-help group that can agree on the deployment of the emergency reserve according to need. Bear in mind that the "Floodsax" can be supplemented with CSB's from the Orchard store. As this will remain as an open access store SBC will replace CSB's once that stock is exhausted. SBC will replace the "Floodsax" once they have been used and the immediate risk of flooding has gone as after use the "Floodsax" cannot be dried out for re-use. Eddleston CC has generously offered to purchase more "Floodsax". I'll let you know if & when this is done. If you're impressed by the "Floodsax" I could arrange for private purchase through SBC to take advantage of the bulk discounts that SBC have access to. They cost £5 each.

Ted Radford
23rd April '08

Distribution

Ian Hogarth SBC
Margot Porter Eddleston CC
Designated vulnerable properties
Flood prevention volunteers
Eddleston village website
Eddleston village noticeboards