

2023 Spring Flooding

Know flood risks. Check to see if you live in a flood zone or high-risk area (Flood Map/FEMA QR code).

Be aware of runoff in streams, drainage channels, ditches, and other waterways near your home.

Consider flood insurance. Homeowner policies don't cover floods. You need a separate policy.

Document personal property. Document personal property with photos or video. Safely store it and other valuable documents away from your home.

Utilities. Locate switches and valves for electricity, gas, and water, and know how to safely turn them off.

Prepare to evacuate your home.

Know when and how to safely evacuate.

Establish a meeting place in case you become separated during evacuation.

Select an out-of-town contact to inform them of your safety.

Prepare and maintain 72-hour kits for each family member and an emergency kit for your vehicle.

Plan for pet care. Emergency shelters may not allow them.



[Flood Map/FEMA](#)

Tune in to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio (NOAA), the National Weather Service, or local radio and television stations for updates.

“FLOODS, What you should know when living in Utah”

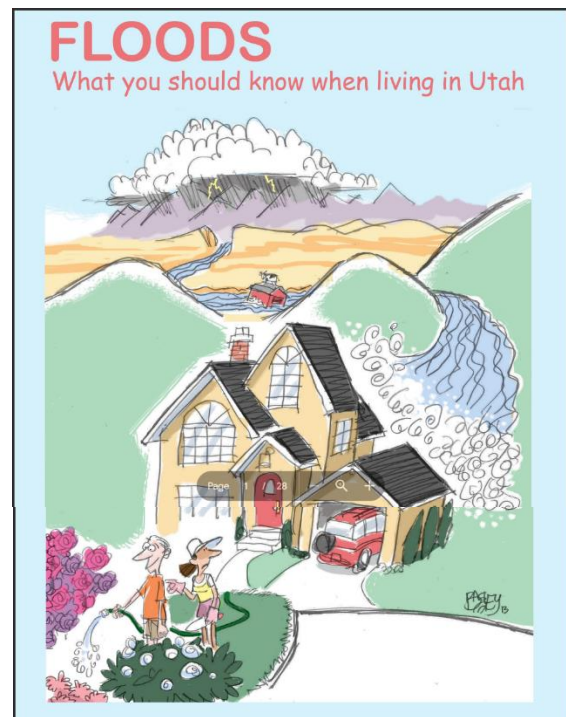
Scan the QR Code to find helpful facts and tips designed to increase flood awareness and make preparation easy.

You can find information such as:

- Six inches of moving water is enough to knock you off your feet.
- One foot of water will float your vehicle, and two feet can wash it away.

- The number of landslides in Utah is increasing every year.

- As a homeowner, you are more likely to experience a flood than a fire over the span of a 30-year mortgage.



[What you should know when living in Utah](#)

...and much more, to help you better understand disasters and be prepared for them before they strike.

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Tooele County residents and visitors can now receive life-saving emergency alerts and advanced warning of severe weather directly to their Android or Apple iOS device, or receive a call, text, email, or call to your home phone with TooeleAlerts.

Alerts include public safety alerts, such as crime, active shooter, imminent danger, hazardous materials wildfire, floods, immediate evacuations, road closures, and power outages.



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3. Protecting Structures

Each property and structure is unique. Protective measure should always be selected to address your property and its surroundings. The following issues should be considered when developing a strategy:

- Protecting structures
- Protecting land from water and debris flows
- Protecting slopes and surfaces from erosion.

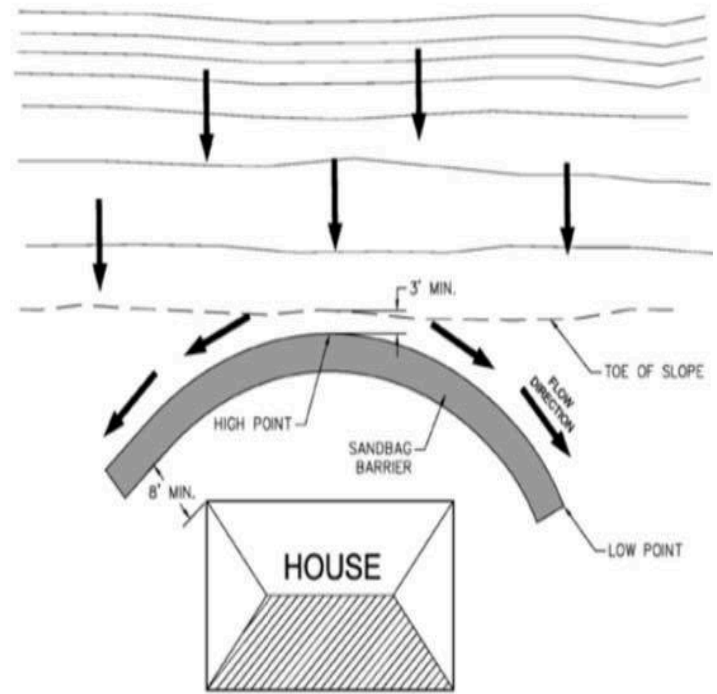


Figure 3. Sandbag placement around home

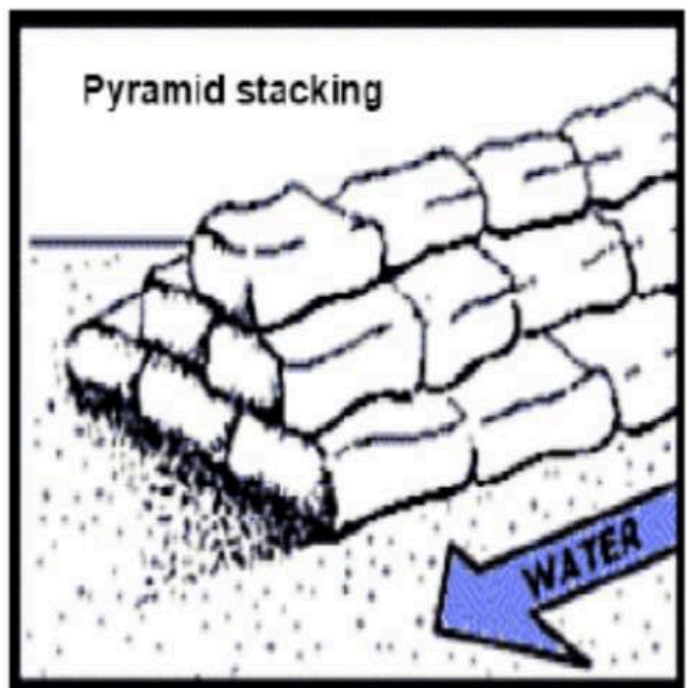
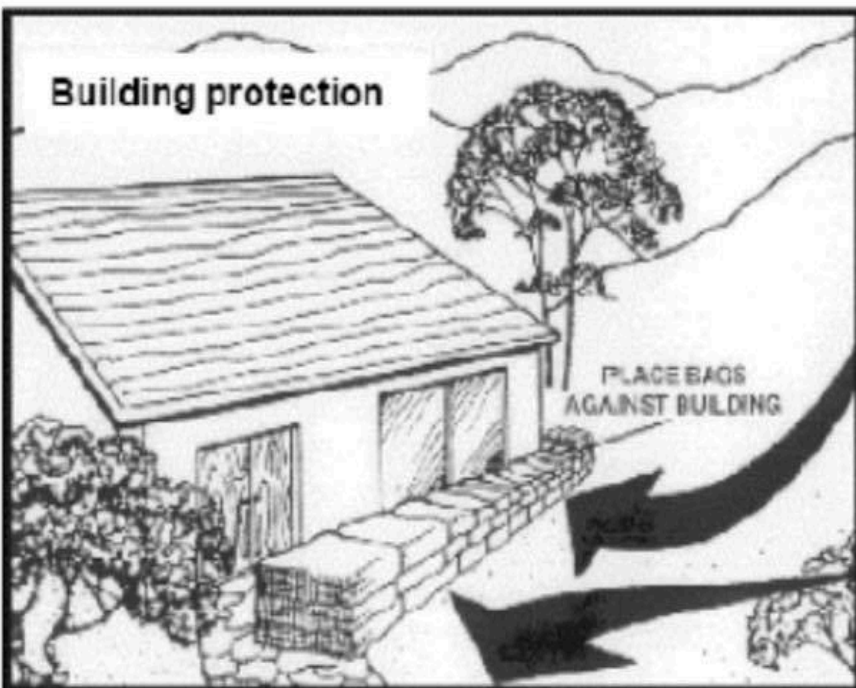
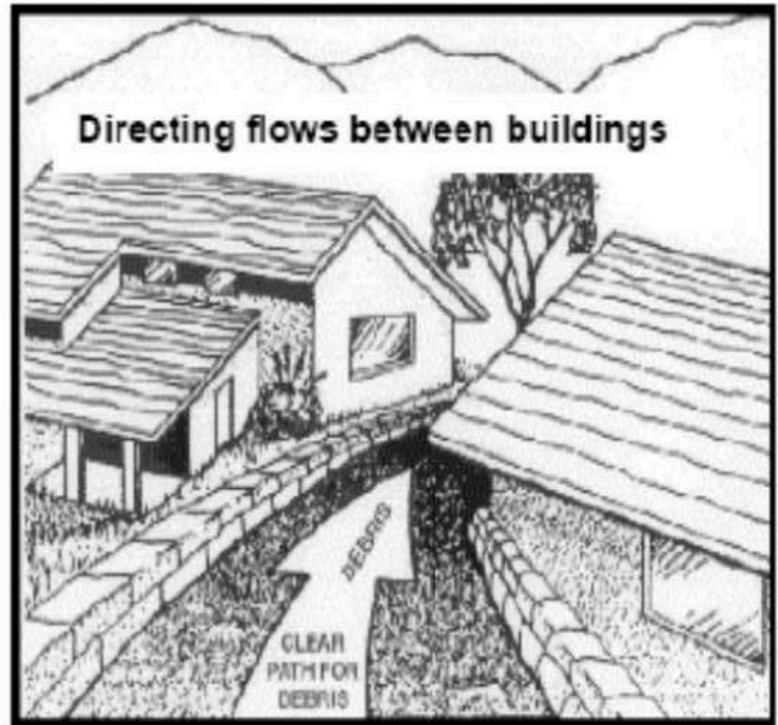
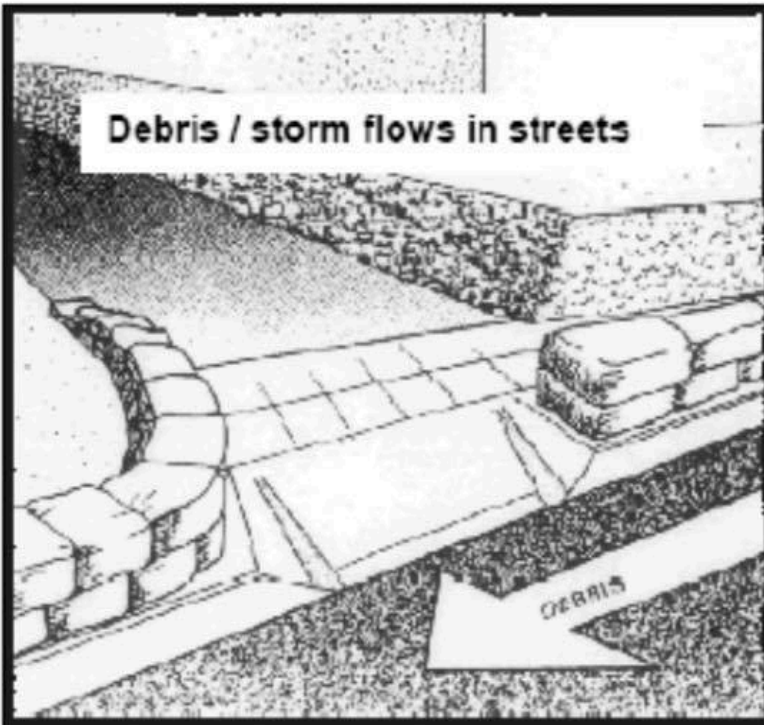
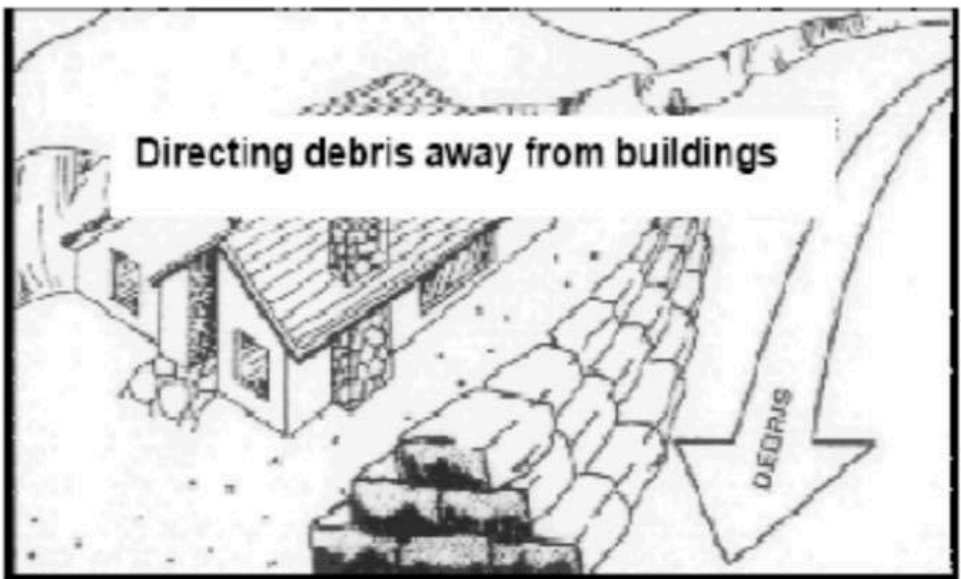
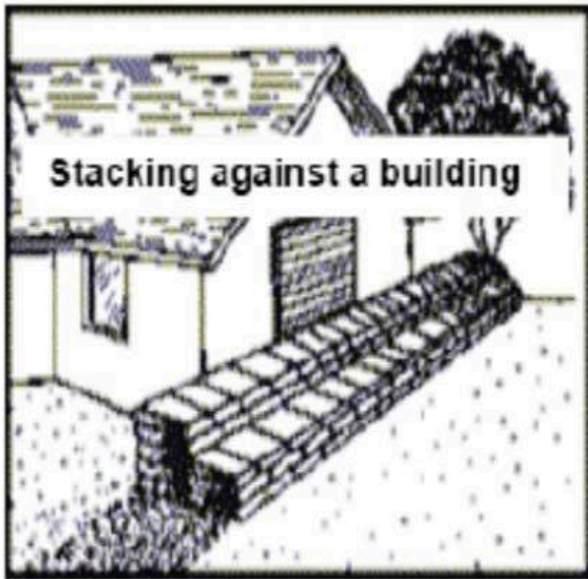
3.1 Sandbag Barriers

Properly filled, installed and maintained sandbags can be used very effectively to redirect stormwater and debris flows away from buildings during a minor storm event. If you have burned areas on the slopes above your home, you should consider using sandbags or other barrier protection until the slopes are re-vegetated and stabilized.

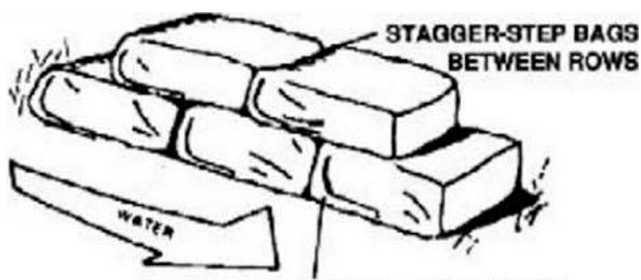
3.1.1 Sandbag Placement

Ideally sandbag barriers should be placed a minimum of 3-ft from the toe of an erodible slope and a minimum of 8-ft away from buildings. To divert debris flows around your home, place bags on the uphill side of the building and provide a clear flow path that moves downhill and around the building as shown in Figure 3.

Sandbags cannot be used to protect from major debris flows. Do not use them if you have a contributing drainage area to your home greater than 5 acres. Examples include locations along Fourmile Canyon Drive at the downstream end of tributary creeks. Site specific engineered protection is required in these locations. They also should not be used to line Fourmile Creek or Gold Run Creek. If the slope around your structure is steep, please see the guidelines in *Section 3.1.6*.



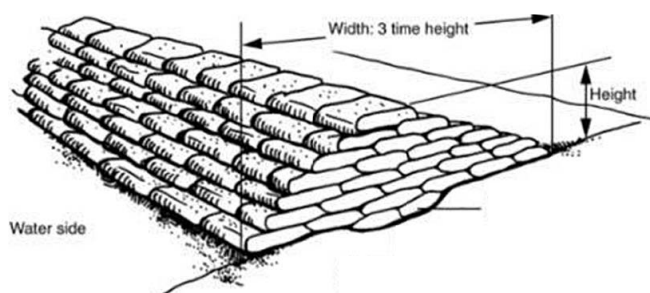
1. Remove any debris in the area where sandbags are to be placed. Remove snow and ice and anything else “slippery” in order to create a good bond between the ground and the sandbag barrier.
2. Place bags with the opening in the top in the direction of flow of water to prevent them from opening when water runs by. The bag you receive should be filled about half full and tied near the top of the bag. Place the bags by folding the empty portion of the bag under.



PLACE BAG WITH FLAP UNDER BAG

Figure 5. Open end of bag in direction of flow⁵

5. Finish each layer before starting the next by tamping the bags into place by walking on them. Stamp down firmly to eliminate voids, form a tight seal, flatten the top of the bag and prevent slippage between succeeding layers.
6. Place sandbags in a pyramid fashion with the base equal to 3 times the height.
7. The maximum recommended height is 3-ft. The following table can be used to estimate the number of bags needed to construct a sandbag barrier in a pyramid fashion.



Bonding trench 1 sack deep,
2 sacks wide

Strip sod before laying
bottom layer, if possible

Figure 7. Pyramid Stacking⁷