

Frequently Asked Questions

City Sandbag Program

What is the Sandbagger?

The Sandbagger is motorized machinery used to fill sandbags. It has 4 “chutes” or self-service stations where sandbags can be filled.

How does the Sandbagger work?

The user holds an empty sandbag underneath one of the four chutes, presses down on the foot pedal, and sand fills the bag. Be careful not to overfill the bag and leave enough room to tie it up.

Is the Sandbagger easy to use?

Yes. The Sandbagger is a simple, user-friendly self-service device used to help distribute sandbags quickly.

Why is the City offering sandbags?

The City wants to be proactive and prepare citizens prior to a major event. There was a recognized need for sandbags prior to Hurricane Harvey. Distribution was slow and frustrating at that time. The City wanted a better system of distribution before the threat of severe weather occurs.

Where will the Sandbagger be located?

The Sandbagger will be available on select Saturdays in each of the 5 City Council districts. It will be available at the J.C. Elliott Collection Center on Wednesdays. See the latest scheduled location at www.ctexas.com/sandbagsaturdays.

Is this service free?

Yes, this service is free.

What is the City supplying?

The City is supplying sand and bags, free of charge. A limited number of gloves will be available for use.

Do I need to take any equipment with me?

It is recommended residents bring gloves with them. In addition, residents should bring assistance as bags can weigh up to 50 pounds.

How many bags can I take?

Each vehicle is allowed 6 sandbags.

How heavy are the bags?

Once filled, each bag can weigh up to 50 lbs.

What if I need assistance carrying sandbags?

Residents are responsible for carrying their own sandbags and are strongly encouraged to bring a helping hand to load sandbags into their vehicle. Staff will not be available to carry or fill sandbags for residents.

Will staff be available at events?

Limited staff is available to answer questions on how to use the machinery.

Can I grab more than 6 sandbags in the same day?

No, there is a limit of 6 sandbags per vehicle, per day. If more are needed, residents are encouraged to visit the J.C. Elliott Collection Center (Highway 286 at Ayers Street) on Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Can I attend more than one Saturday event?

Yes, residents may attend multiple Saturday event.

Do I need to show an ID?

A valid, government-issued ID is required to enter the J.C. Elliott Collection Center. However, an ID is not required to attend any Saturday event.

I can't make it on Saturday, where can I go?

Residents are encouraged to visit the J.C. Elliott Collection Center (Highway 286 at Ayers Street) on Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

How many bags can I take from the J.C. Elliott Collection Center?

There will still be a limit of 6 sandbags per vehicle at the J.C. Elliott Collection Center.

How do I use a sandbag?

Sandbags should be stacked but in a staggered order. See links to resources at

www.cctexas.com/sandbagsaturdays.

