

Ponding in Fort Valley: Sandbag Reminders

Fort Valley Residents—

The Coconino County Flood Control District (District) is aware that significant volumes of snowmelt have resulted in water ponding throughout low-lying areas of the Fort Valley neighborhood. Many residents have already taken advantage of The District-provided sandbags available at the Snowbowl property at the northwest corner of North Snowbowl Road and Hwy. 180. Another 48 pallets of sandbags are set to be distributed to this sandbag stockpile site today (April 12th). More sandbags will be provided as needed.

Very importantly, the District reminds residents there are important practices to follow regarding the placement of sandbags:

- Sandbags can **ONLY** be used to mitigate impacts to homes, **NOT** outbuildings, non-habitation structures, or property lines.
- Sandbags **MUST** be placed very close to the home and roof drains should be extended beyond the sandbags.

These practices are very important to employ so that the water can spread out and reduce the impacts across the entire area. Concentrating water by placing sandbags away from the home creates both upstream and downstream adverse impacts for which the resident/property owner can be held liable. If you see your neighbor employing this improper approach, then please ask them to not do so. If they continue, then your next step is to contact an attorney. The District nor the County has no authority in these matters – it is an issue between property owners.

The District will have representatives out in the area and identifying properties that may have misplaced sandbags and recommending realignment to the homes. They will also knock on doors of homes that may likely be impacted by this historical snowmelt event.

The District website maintains information resources available to public, including best practices for constructing sandbag mitigation, mitigating impacts to septic systems and wells, and a recording of a public meeting held recently regarding the threat of ponding in the Fort Valley area. These resources and more can be accessed at: <https://www.coconino.az.gov/1977/Ponding>.

Thank you for working together to reduce the impacts to all homes in the Fort Valley area.

Lucinda Andreani
District Administrator