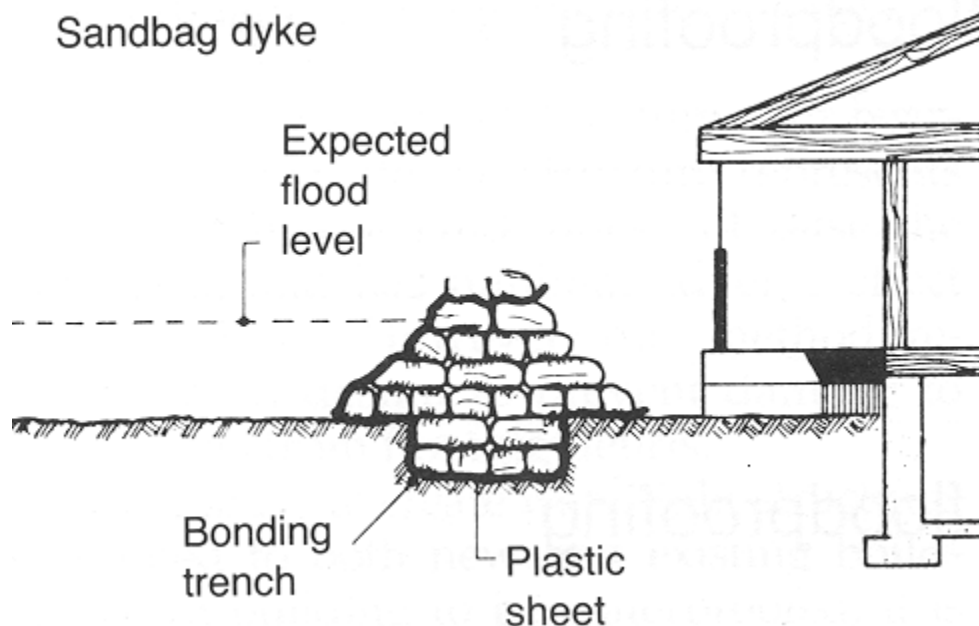


BUILDING SANDBAG DYKES

The most common emergency flood proofing technique entails stacking sandbags in such a way as to form a barrier against rising floodwaters. The bags must be strong enough to hold the sand or fill and withstand contact with water indefinitely. It is best to use burlap and plastic bags designed for that purpose and to use a durable plastic sheet to prevent the seepage of water through the dyke.

Since water exerts pressures against the sandbag dyke, if at all possible a trench should be dug to prevent the dyke from moving. Other methods of anchoring the dyke include placing the bottom of the dyke against or on permanent features, e.g., a ditch, a raised roadbed, a curb, a foundation wall etc.



The bags should not be totally filled with sand. Fill the bags from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ full at most. This allows one to overlap the other and serves to lock the bags together. In addition, the bags should be placed so that each layer is put at right angles to the layers above and below, adding stability to the structure.

The width of the sandbag dyke at its base must be 3 times the height of the dyke.