



BAY COUNTY

911 Central Dispatch

(989) 895-4051 • FAX (989) 892-3744

1228 Washington Ave., Bay City MI 48708

**Christopher Izvorski
Director**

James A. Barcia
Bay County Executive

Ryan Manz
Emergency Management Coordinator
989-895-4112

Bay County Assists Local Municipalities with Flood Prevention

Contact: Ryan Manz, Bay County Emergency Management Coordinator, (989) 895-4112

Press Release

Issued: August 5, 2019

For Immediate Release

BAY COUNTY, Bay County is assisting municipalities along the Saginaw and Kawkawlin rivers with mitigating the effects of possible flooding due to the continued high water levels of the Saginaw Bay and river systems by way of free sandbags.

Recently, residents of Bangor Township and Bangor Township Supervisor, Glenn Rowley, reached out to Bay County with concerns about the high water and the possibility of flooding due to high winds. “Mr. Rowley explained that when we see a strong Northeast wind under normal circumstances, the Bay blows in and properties along the Kawkawlin become inundated with flood water,” states Bay County Executive Jim Barcia. “We wanted to help in any way we could, so we made about 2,000 sandbags available to Bangor Township so that they could assist their citizens with property protection and then reached out, through Emergency Management to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for any assistance they could provide. We will also be offering free sandbags from Bay County’s supply to the other communities along the two rivers”

The recent additional concern is due to the current high water marks of the entire Saginaw River Watershed. “The Bay is currently near record levels, which puts the Saginaw and Kawkawlin rivers near flood stage without additional rain or wind,” says Bay County Emergency Management Coordinator, Ryan Manz. “Most residents along the rivers, especially near the Bay, are seeing day-to-day water levels that they normally only see in the spring.” He goes on to state, “When we have normal water levels, a 25-30mph sustained wind causes problems. Going into the fall with these high water levels, the possibility of a strong Northeast wind could be catastrophic to properties along the rivers. This is why we are thankful that the USACE were able to assist.”

“Bangor Township is a shoreline community and we, along with our neighboring communities, are blessed to have waterways in our backyard. Sadly with the record high water levels, our greatest asset can quickly become our biggest peril,” stated Glenn Rowley, Bangor Township Supervisor. “We want to make sandbags available to our area residents so they can be proactive in securing their property from potential flood damage. I am also pleased to have such fabulous cooperation between Bangor Township, Bay County, the City of Bay City, the US Army Corp of Engineers and Michigan State Police to make this program possible.”

The USACE has offered technical assistance to Bay County. This assistance entails advice on how, where and when to sandbag, updates on the continued threat of flooding from a waterways standpoint and outreach to the residents of Bay County.

They have also made available 40,000 sandbags to the municipalities along the most threatened areas of the Kawkawlin and Saginaw River. The sandbags have reached their official shelf life so can no longer be used by the USACE, but are still in excellent condition and are perfect for prevention efforts like this. The sandbags will be transferred to Bay County and then distributed out to municipalities that are interested in providing them to their citizens. Citizens along the rivers that would like sandbags should contact their local municipality.
<https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/AboutBayCounty/CityandTownshipOfficials.aspx>