

## **Frequently Asked Questions on Sandbags**

We anticipate questions will be directed to IDEM regarding the regulatory status and permitted disposition. This FAQ has been written to assist staff in answering questions regarding options for handling and disposal or use. If staff encounter questions beyond those covered here, please direct them to Tracy Barnes at 317.308.3110 or Charlie Grady at 317.308.3115.

### **Are sandbags regulated?**

It depends on what has come in contact with the sandbags and how they are handled.

- If the sandbags have come in contact with industrial wastes, fuel, oil or other chemicals that could impact the environment, they must be taken to a municipal solid waste landfill.
- If the sandbags have come in contact with manure, they may be land applied on agricultural land. Please note: The sand must be removed from the bags and the bags must be sent to a municipal solid waste landfill.
- If the sandbags have come in contact with floodwater only or have not been used, they may be sent to a municipal solid waste landfill or used under certain conditions.

### **If they haven't been used or only had contact with flood water, what options exist for use?**

The sand, if removed from the bag can be used with no restriction. If the sand is not removed from the bag, it can be used provided the bags are covered with a minimum of 6" of soil and vegetation is established. The cover must be in place to keep any bags from being exposed on the surface and later deteriorating and blowing or washing away. The bags may be used as general fill or in berm construction. It is critical that they are properly covered if this option is selected.