

Alternative Sandbags for Public Roads 07H .0308 CRC-25-41

Coastal Resources Commission, November 19-20, 2025
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Temporary Erosion Control Structures 07H .0308(b)(2)

- Ocean Hazard AEC
- Imminently threatened roads, right of ways, and buildings and associated septic systems.
- Limited to sandbags at the mean high water and parallel to shore.

- 07H .0308(b)(2)(L) sets the dimensions and color of the individual bags
 - Tan in color
 - 3 to 5 feet wide and 7 to 15 feet long when measured flat. Base width not to exceed 20ft and 6ft high measured from the base of the lowest bag.



Example: NC DOT and NC 12

- NC DOT has utilized alternative sandbags through a CRC variance three times.
 - NC 12 in Ocracoke variance granted June 2020
 - Mirlo Beach variance granted February 2022
 - Pea Island Visitors Center variance granted December 2024

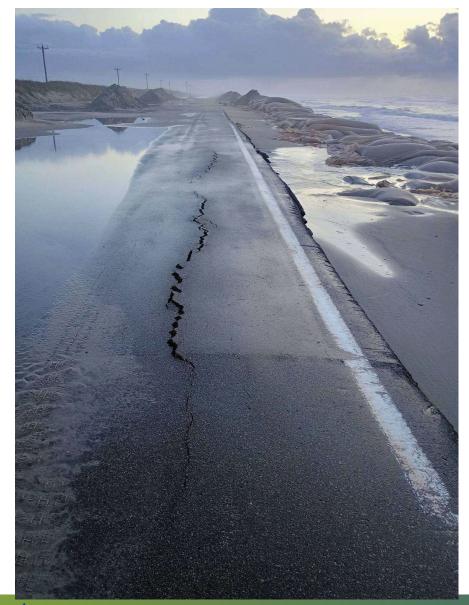
• Each example of alternative sandbags were the same design, though there would be potential for other makes and

manufacturers.





NC 12 Ocracoke







Mirlo Beach, Rodanthe



Illustration E: Example cell dimensions

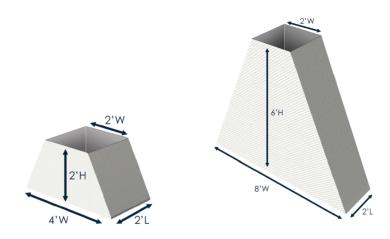


Illustration F: Approximate section weights with sand fill and concrete fill.

Sand Fill:

• 2' H Section: 11 yards / 14 tons

• 3' H Section: 20 yards / 25.45 tons

• 4' H Section: 30 yards / 38 tons

• 6' H Section: 55 yards / 70 tons



Pea Island Visitors Center



Example: NC DOT and NC 12

- NC DOT has requested revised rule language to allow more flexibility for the protection of public roadways.
- NC DOT indicates that alternative sandbag designs will provide better options to meet the needs of protecting imminently threatened public roadways.
- To meet this request DCM has drafted the following rule language for CRC review...



07H.0308(b)(2)(L-O)

- (L) Sandbags used to construct temporary erosion control structures shall be tan in color and 3 to 5 feet wide and 7 to 15 feet long when measured flat. Base width of the temporary erosion control structure shall not exceed 20 feet, and the total height shall not exceed 6 feet, as measured from the bottom of the lowest bag.
- (M) Soldier pilings and other types of devices to anchor sandbags shall not be allowed.
- (N) Existing sandbag structures may be repaired or replaced within their originally permitted dimensions during the time period allowed under Part (F) or (G) of this Subparagraph.
- (O) Sandbags used to construct temporary erosion control structures to protect public roads are not subject to the color and size limitations in 07H .0308(b)(2)(L). Base width of the temporary erosion control structures to protect public roads shall not exceed 20 feet, and the total height shall not exceed 6 feet, as measured from the bottom of the lowest bag.

