

Popular Mechanics

Sandbags To Go

When floodwaters crest, communities on vulnerable floodplains rely upon armies of volunteers to construct protective sandbag levees. The bottleneck in these hasty rescue efforts is the backbreaking task of filling sandbags by hand. Hoping to help threatened towns make better use of their volunteer workers, Flood, Sweat & Tears of Mason City, Ill., has developed an automatic sandbagging machine. Called the Sandhog, it can be towed by a dumptruck and turn out sandbags as fast as volunteers can grab them. It promises not only to help save valuable property, but prevent lots of backaches as well.

