DRIPPING SPRINGS
Texas

Special Event Canopy Safety Guide

Most accidents at street festivals and markets involve wind-blown tents, canopies, and umbrellas. For the safety of vendors and festival attendees, the City of Dripping Springs requires that a 10x10 vendor booth tent must have no less than 25-lbs anchoring each leg. Weights and canopy tie-downs should be safely secured -- "safely," meaning that the method used to secure the canopy does not create its own safety hazards. Any vendor who fails to properly anchor his or her tent will be asked to take their canopy down and sell without it.

Dripping Springs City Ordinance, Section 16.02.066

Setting up & taking down canopy weights

- Set-up and secure the canopy with weights at the same time. Set-up times often prove to be the most vulnerable to the wind. Stay focused and don't get distracted.
- Always attach canopy weights to the canopy.
- Secure weights in a way that do not create additional safety hazards.
    - Weights should not cause a tripping hazard.
    - Weights should be tethered with a line that is visible or use a weight designed to effectively capture the leg bracket. Avoid stretched out lines or cords.
    - Weights should have soft edges to prevent scrapes and cuts.
    - Weights should not hang over a person's head.
- Canopy weights should have at least 25-40 pounds per leg for a 10'X10' canopy and 50 pounds per leg for a 10'X20' canopy.
- Take down the canopy and weights at the same time. Take-down times are equally vulnerable to the wind. Stay focused and don't get distracted at the end of the day.

WEATHER AWARENESS

In certain inclement weather conditions, even properly secured canopies can be precarious. If canopies need to be taken down in the middle of market due to inclement weather, vendors should direct customers to move out of the way so they are not injured.

Examples of Good Canopy Weights

- Pre-Filled Cement or Duracast Canopy Weights – Pre-filled cement weights with pre-cut leg openings generally range for 5-10 pounds and are stackable. These convenient weights are easy to set-up and take down, and store. They are not messy and do not rust. Pre-filled canopy weights are available from a variety of retailers, including USW.
- Cast Iron Weights – Cast iron weights convenient and offer the most density. They generally range for 10-20 pounds per piece. These weights are stackable and easy to set-up and take down. They are available from a variety of retailers, including USW.
- 2.5 Gallon+ Cement-Filled Buckets - Filling an empty bucket (2.5 gallon works great) with cement and tying this to each corner of the tent with a rope or bungee. It is not sufficient to place the bucket on the feet of the canopy.
- PVC Cement-Filled Pipe - These homemade canopy eights are often capped and filled with cement can be hung on the inside of canopy poles as long as it is secured so that it does not collide with a person and is below the head.
- Sandbag Weights – Sandbag weights that specially made for securing canopies and weigh at least 20 pounds filled with sand. These sandbag weights are vertical and can be strapped the legs of the canopy. They are available from a variety of retailers including USW.
- 2+ Gallon Canopy Weight Buckets - Water-filled or sand-filled buckets are another alternative. These generally weigh between 17-25 pounds each depending on the fill. They are available from a wide variety of retailers.

Examples of Bad Canopy Weights

- One-Gallon Water Jugs – One-Gallon Jugs are just not heavy enough for large gusts of wind. One gallon of water weighs only eight pounds.
- Stakes – A strong wind will easily uproot stakes. They will also create serious tripping hazards since they are often barely visible.
- Tying - Tying tents, canopies or umbrellas to tables, coolers or vehicles provides tripping hazards and frequently does not provide adequate weight.
- Sandbags – Sandbags that cannot be placed upright and securely tied to the tent or canopy should not be used.
- Cinder Blocks – Cinder blocker are a tripping hazard and not heavy enough. Cinder blocks weigh 22 pounds each.