



RED, WHITE & BLUE

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
COURAGE, COMMITMENT, CARING

Canopy Weight Guidelines

Most accidents at events involve canopies. **It is your job to minimize the risk.** There are two general rules regarding canopies which all participants need to remember:

- **Your canopy shall be fully secured before setting up anything else.**
- **Be sure that your method of securing your canopy to the ground does not create an additional hazard.**

Weights

Summit County has unpredictable weather, and often strong, gusty, and unpredictable winds. While participants use canopies to shield themselves from the rain and sun, our region's winds can turn your canopies into deadly missiles with one unexpected gust.

All participants must have their own weights, with a minimum of 40 pounds, per tent leg. Gallon water jugs and single bricks are not safe. A gallon of water weighs only 8 pounds and single bricks are worthless, weighing in at 3 pounds. PVC pipe filled with concrete or tent weight sandbags are safe ways to weigh down your tents.

Strong gusts come up without warning at any time before, during or after the event has closed. After the first gust catapults your canopy like a rocket-powered javelin through the air, or into a customer or fellow vendor, it is already too late to decide to secure your canopy. You should assume winds will come. While participants may experience calm conditions during morning setup, conditions can change dramatically by late afternoon and breakdown.

Additionally, setup and breakdown periods are when canopies consistently prove to be most vulnerable to the wind. You must be sure to completely secure your canopy as soon as you set it up, and take down your canopy as soon as you remove your weights at the end of the day. **DO NOT** let yourself be interrupted by **ANYTHING** in the middle of this process, as a half-secured canopy is as dangerous, if not more dangerous, than an unsecured canopy.

What is Allowed

PVC Pipe Filled with Concrete (40-50 pounds per leg)



The PVC pipe filled with cement hangs on the inside of the canopy pole, and it has soft edges and the ability to move, just in case someone still manages to collide with it.

Instructions

- Use a 5 inch PVC pipe cut 30 inches long, purchase two end caps for each section along with a long eye hook.
- Drill a hole in one of the ends to allow the bolt end of the eyehook to go through it.
- Using an adhesive for PVC pipe, seal one end.
- Fill the tubes with the bags of quickcrete.
- Add water to the pipes (The moisture will set the quickcrete).
- Secure the end cap with the hole, again using adhesive, and stick the bolt end of the eyehook through the hole making sure it inserts into the quickcrete.
- Stand the pipe up to allow curing.
- Use tie-down straps or bungees with hooks on both ends that allow you to adjust the height for your weights. This keeps the weight tension tight.

EZ - Up Sand Bags or Similar (40 pounds per leg)



Each weight bag holds up to 40 pounds of sand (which you provide) and attaches to legs.

Average cost from most online stores is \$60.00 for 4 bags, plus the cost of sand.

What is NOT Allowed

Water Bottles (8 pounds per leg)



Water jugs weighing 8 pounds each, weigh in at a measly 36 pounds total.

This includes the use of kegs, coolers, bags of ice, etc.

Cinder Blocks (22 pounds per leg)



Aside from being another tripping hazard they're just plain ugly! They only weigh around 22 pounds each.

This includes use of weight plates, barbells, etc.

Stakes



Never use stakes in the cement, or in our rocky soil. A stiff wind will lift this right out of the ground and they are extremely hazardous to you and your customers.

**** If you have any questions or are unsure if your weights will work, please contact the Red, White and Blue Fire Protection District at (970) 453-2474.**