



EXCELSIOR FIRE DISTRICT

EFD Tent Safety 101:

A Guide to Tent Safety

A fair amount of accidents involving wind blown tents occur around the country at festivals, fairs, community events, and farmers markets. The Excelsior Fire District requires that all participants at Arctic Fever, Pond Hockey, the 4th of July, Farmers Market, Art on the Lake, Crazy Days, Apple Day and other community events cooperate to minimize the risk by being safe.

These guidelines are an addition to the manufactures instructions that come with the tent. It is the responsibility of the tent owner/user to read and follow the tents instructions.

The intention of this requirement for tents 12X12 or smaller is so the tent (s) can withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing temporality and allow the owner/operator the time to take the tent down.

The information below applies to tents regardless of the weather conditions.

There is a \$100.00 fee if the tents (s) are not secured properly at the time of the initial inspection. Any vendor who fails to properly anchor his or her tent will have set amount of time to anchor the tent.

In certain inclement weather conditions even properly, secured tents can be precarious. If tents need to be taken down in the middle of an event due to inclement weather, the event organizers can ask vendors to take down their tents or vendors should determine on their own if their tents need to be taken down. When tents are taken down customers/citizens should be asked to move out of the way, so they are not injured.

Tents must have stakes and/or weights secured to **each leg**. Tents ranging in sizes from 10x10 to 12x12 shall be staked and/or weighed the equivalent of 35-100 pounds on each leg. Follow manufactures instructions for stakes/weight, wind speed, and holding power requirements higher than PSI/35 pounds. If a vendor has a tent larger than 12x12 they must contact the Excelsior Fire District one week prior to the event.

- Tents stakes and/or weights should be secured in a manner that does not create its own safety hazard.
- Tents shall be completely secured with weights and/or stakes as soon as they are set it up and the tent shall be taken down as soon as the weights and/or stakes are removed.
- Tents weights must be attached to the tent at all times.

- Tents stakes must be in place at all times.
- Keep weights/stakes out of the main pathway of customers and pedestrians.
- Weights/stakes should not cause a tripping hazard.
- Weights/stakes should be secured/ tethered with lines that are clearly visible.
- Most tent stakes are made for use in average soil conditions. Wet, muddy, or sandy soil will require criss crossed stakes, cork-screw tie-outs and/or weights.
- Weights should be placed in a manner, so they do not cause cuts, scrapes, or other injuries.
- Weights hung from the tents should not be above people's heads and secured from swinging.
- Weights/stakes must be tied or secured to all four legs of the tent.
- Weights cannot just be set on the leg
 - Exceptions
 - Tractor weights or weights made for tent legs
 - Items placed on tent weight plates

Examples of Tent Weights

The items below are suggestions of items and are not limited to items that can be used as weights

- Filling buckets/containers with sand/cement that can be anchored or secured with a rope; these include canvas bags or plastic buckets/containers that have a handle through which a rope can be secured.
- Filling an empty 5-gallon bucket with cement and tying this to each corner of the tent with a rope. It is NOT sufficient to place the bucket on the feet of the tent.
- Sandbag weights that are specially made for securing tents and weigh at least 35 pounds. These sandbag weights are vertical and can be strapped the legs of a tent.
- PVC pipe capped and filled with cement can be hung on the inside of tent poles as long as it is secured so that it does not collide with customers.
- Tractor weights
- Cinder/concrete block.
- Bags of gravel.
- Sandbags.
- A 5-gallon water bottle.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Excelsior Fire District Fire Inspector, Kellie Murphy-Ringate at 952-960-1692 or e-mail kmurphyringate@excelsiorfire.org