



## VENDOR CANOPY SAFETY GUIDELINES

We require all vendors to minimize the risk caused by canopies and umbrellas by following rules for canopy safety.

- Canopy weights must be attached to canopies and umbrellas at all times.
- All vendors who wish to erect canopies (including umbrellas) on-site during a normal period of market operations, including the setup and breakdown period, are required to have their canopies sufficiently and safely anchored to the ground from the time their canopy is put up to the time it is taken down. Any vendor who fails to anchor their canopy properly will only be allowed to remain for the event if that vendor chooses to take down and stow their canopy and sell without it. Each canopy leg must have no less than 25 lbs (pounds) anchoring each leg.
- In certain inclement weather conditions, even properly secured canopies can be precarious. If canopies need to be taken down during the event due to inclement weather, vendors should direct customers away from their area so they are not injured.
- Weights should be secured in a manner that does not create safety hazards:
  - Weights should not cause a tripping hazard
  - Weights should be tethered with lines that are visible
  - Weights should have soft edges to avoid causing cuts and scrapes
  - Weights should be securely attached
  - Weights should be on the ground (NOT above people's heads)
- Canopies are used at markets to shield vendors and their products from sun and rain. Still, unpredictable winds can arise at any moment creating a safety hazard if the canopy is not properly secured. Sufficiently weighted canopies will have at least 25 pounds per leg. One canopy manufacturer recommends at least 40 pounds on each corner of a 10x10 tent; double that on a 10x20 tent. 50 pounds should be used for umbrellas. Weights for signs will vary depending on the size of the sign. Examples of good canopy weights
  - Filling an empty bucket (2.5 gallons 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.
  - Filling buckets/containers with sand/cement can be anchored or secured with a rope or bungee; these include canvas bags or plastic buckets/containers with a handle through which a rope or bungee can be secured.

- Sandbag weights are specially made for securing canopies and weigh at least 25 pounds. These sandbag weights are vertical and can be strapped to the legs of the canopy.
- The best weights are strapped to the bottom of each leg and then tethered via a bungee to the top corner of the canopy, thus lowering the center of gravity of the canopy. In a strong gust of wind, even canopies secured with enough weight can be broken if the weights are not suspended from the top corners of the canopy.
- Examples of Bad Canopy Weights
  - One-Gallon water jugs are not heavy enough for large gusts of wind. One-gallon water jugs weigh 8 pounds and are not heavy enough for large gusts of wind. One gallon of water on each corner would be the equivalent of a 3-year-old child trying to hold down a 100-square-foot parachute.
  - Sandbags that cannot be placed upright and securely tied to the tent or canopy should not be used.
  - In addition to not providing enough grip to prevent a canopy from taking flight in a strong gust of wind, tent stakes are barely visible to shoppers. They can cause a serious tripping hazard to an unsuspecting customer. At all costs, avoid stretched-out cords and lines. Customers and their children will get them wrapped around their arms or legs, causing them to trip and fall and perhaps pull over your displays.

All this to say, STAY SAFE! Keep you, our guests, and your hard work protected by utilizing the above information to prevent injury or loss. Thank you, vendors!