



EXCELSIOR FIRE DISTRICT

Event and Party Tent Safety Tips

Every year a fair amount of accidents involving wind blown tents occur around the country at weddings, family reunions, graduations, backyard parties, and celebrations.

The Excelsior Fire District wants your gathering to be successful, fun, and safe.

Below are some tips to help you make sure the tent(s) that you use at your event is secured and safe.

Weather conditions can change rapidly so follow these tips even on the calmest, clearest, and sunniest days.

Keep in mind, when a tent gets caught in the wind it becomes a flying blender that can cause severe injuries and significant property damage.

In certain inclement weather conditions even properly secured tents can be precarious. If tent(s) needs to be taken down in the middle of an event due not hesitate to take it down.

To be assured tents are secured properly tents should have stakes and/or weights secured to **each leg**. Tents ranging in sizes from 10x10 to 12x12 should be staked and/or weighed the equivalent of 35-100 pounds on each leg. Follow manufactures instructions for weight, wind speed, and holding power requirements higher than 35 pounds/PSI.

If you have a tent larger than 12x12 refer to the manufactures instructions for weight, wind speed, and holding power requirements.

If you are renting tents confirm with the rental company that they will secure the tents.

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

Before ponding stakes in to the ground to secure tents call Gopher State One Call to have the utilities located at least two full business days before placing stakes for tents.

Telephone: (800) 252-1166 or (651) 454-0002

Web site: <http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/home-homeowner2>

Link to Gopher State One Call Homeowners Information Guide:

http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/images/stories/learning_center/homeownerguide3632.pdf

SECURING A TENT

Tents stakes and/or weights should be secured in a manner that does not create other safety hazards.

- Tents should be completely secured with weights and/or stakes as soon as they are set it up and the tent should be taken down as soon as the weights and/or stakes are removed.
- Tents weights should be attached to the tent at all times.
- Tents stakes should be in place at all times.
- Weights/stakes should be tied or secured to all four legs of the tent.
- Weights/stakes should be secured/ tethered with lines that are clearly visible.
- Do not place weights on the tent legs without attaching them to the leg. The tent can get pulled away from the weights when it is moved by the wind
- Tent stakes are for use in average soil conditions. Wet, muddy, or sandy soil will require additional stakes 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.
- Keep weights/stakes out of the main pathway of your guests and pets.
- Weights/stakes should not cause a tripping hazard.

EXAMPLES OF TENT WEIGHTS

The items below are suggestions of items and 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.
- 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. Secured them so they do not have the potential to collide with people.
- Tractor weights
- Cinder/concrete block.
- Bags of gravel.
- Sand bags.
- Salt bags or kitty litter bags or buckets
- A 5 gallon water bottle.

SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE TENTS WEIGHTS LOOK MORE APPEALING TO THE EYE

- Wrap them with fabric, table cloths, draping, curtains, pillow cases or sheets.
- Wrap them with burlap, wrapping paper, colored plastic bags.
- Put them in large gift bags.
- Incorporate the weight into the event theme.
- Wrap them with holiday lights.
- Tie balloons too them or around them.

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

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