



Canopy Weight Guidelines

Most accidents at events involve canopies. **It is your responsibility 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. Use approved straps to secure canopy weights.**

Weights

Summit County has unpredictable weather, and often strong, gusty 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 a single brick is worthless, weighing in at 3 pounds. PVC pipe filled with concrete

or tent weight sandbags are safe ways to weigh down your tents.

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 APPROVED

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 rounded edges. Pipe must be secured to roof and to canopy leg separately.

How to Build It Yourself

- Use 4 inch ID PVC pipe cut 36 inches long or longer, purchase two end caps for each section along with a long eyebolt and nut.

- Drill a hole in one of the end caps just large enough to allow the bolt end of the eyebolt to go through it.
- Using an adhesive for PVC pipe, seal one end with the undrilled cap.
- Mix at least 40 lbs. of dry concrete, such as quickcrete, with water and pour into the tube.
- Insert the bolt through the hole in the cap and tighten a nut onto the bolt inside the cap. Secure the cap to the pipe with PVC adhesive.
- Use tie-down straps that allow you to adjust the height for your weights. This keeps the weight tension tight. Only use approved tie down straps to secure the weights to the canopy.

WHAT IS APPROVED (continued)

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. Remember to use the large size bags and fill them completely.

What is NOT Allowed

- **One gallon water jugs** weighing 8 pounds each are far short of the required 40 lbs. per leg.
- **Larger water jugs that do not have handles molded as part of the body.**
- Concrete blocks – **cannot be secured adequately to canopy legs and do not weigh enough.**
- Coolers, bags of ice, water jugs **from which water or product is removed.**
- Loose **weightlifting plates** – cannot be secured to legs properly.
- **Dumbbells** – cannot be secured properly to canopy legs.
- **Merchandise Racks** – do not weigh enough when product is removed.
- **Stakes in the ground.**

How to Secure Weights

Weights must be secured to canopy roof and to canopy leg separately with the following methods:

- **Nylon ratchet straps**
- **High quality rope – light-duty cord is not allowed.**
- **Factory-supplied pins (weight bags come with these).**

Note: Bungees and rubber straps are not allowed!

***Alternative materials and methods may be approved on a case-by-case basis. Requests must be submitted to the Fire District at least one month in advance.**

**** If you have any questions or are unsure if your weights will work, please contact the Lake Dillon Fire Rescue Fire Prevention Office at (970) 262-5201 or contact your event organizer.**