

Safety Note #208

## Temporary Shade Tent Safety



Creating a shady area is an essential measure for heat illness prevention, and often canopy tents are used to create pop-up kiosks at outdoor events as well as to provide shade from the sun exposure. Despite its usefulness, however, it can cause injuries if mishandled or inadequate preparations are taken for unexpected natural conditions.

Canopies usually weight between 40 to 150 lbs, and in windy or gusty conditions, air pressure can build up underneath the canopy top and flip a canopy over drag it across open areas. In addition, the frames are made in aluminum or steel, therefore could strike someone or cause property damage. Here are the following guidelines to follow if you are planning on using canopy tents:

- Always use sturdy and well-anchored poles or supports to hold up your canopy. Make sure the poles are firmly planted in the ground and that the tarp is tied securely to them.
- Be mindful of the weather and take the necessary steps to protect your tarp canopy in the event of heavy rain or strong winds.
- It is recommended to not set up a tent in windy conditions exceeding 15 miles per hour. Check the local weather forecast to confirm the wind conditions are safe.
- Implement additional tie-downs or weights to keep the tarp from being blown away. Use a stake down or heavy object to secure the tarp well.
- Set up your tarp canopy on level ground and avoid placing it on steep slopes or uneven terrain that could compromise its stability.
- Use heavy-duty tarps that are designed for outdoor use and have UV protection if you're planning to use them in direct sunlight.
- If you are setting up a portable grill or a complete camp kitchen under your canopy tent, confirm that the tent is National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certified. Make sure to take all necessary safety precautions to prevent fire hazards.