

Structural Safety Policy

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Introduction

To ensure the safety of all attendees, vendors, and staff, the MMSW Board has established mandatory structural requirements for all vendor canopies, sunshades, and temporary structures. High winds are a reality of our outdoor environment, and these standards are designed to protect both your merchandise and our community.

Staking Requirements

All temporary structures must be anchored to the ground using the following specifications:

Minimum Anchor

One (1) heavy-duty 10-inch steel stake per leg.

Preferred Anchor

Two (2) stakes per leg are highly recommended for maximum stability.

Installation

All stakes must be hammer-driven to their full depth to ensure proper tension and placement.

Supplemental Gear

Vendors are encouraged to use additional stakes and tie-downs for tarps, tables, displays, and other loose equipment.

Weight Requirements

In addition to staking, all structures must utilize weight ballasts to prevent uplift.

Minimum Weight

Ten (10) pounds of weight per leg.

Preferred Weight

Fifteen (15) pounds per leg is recommended.

Attachment

Weights must be securely fastened directly to the canopy frame/structure (not simply resting on the feet) to remain effective during gusts.

Loose Items

We recommend additional weights or tethering for any lightweight display items or furniture.

Enforcement

MMSW may need to enforce these requirements in a number of ways.

Alterations

If we discover an unsafe structure that does not meet the staking and weight requirements, we will request the owner make alterations to meet the requirements. If the owner cannot meet the requirements, we will do our best to help including loaning stakes or weight if possible.

Takedowns

If the owner cannot be identified or is unable to meet the staking and weight requirements for their structure, MMSW reserves the right to take the structure down without notice in the interest of safety for all attendees of the event.

Resources

MMSW is committed to keeping our event accessible. We have compiled the following budget-friendly resources to help you meet these safety standards:

Affordable Hardware

[Heavy-Duty 10-Inch Steel Stakes](#) can be found at most local hardware retailers (typically around \$6.99 for a 6-pack).

DIY Weight Solutions

Effective weights can be easily crafted from recycled materials. Filling milk jugs, detergent containers, or coffee cans with sand or gravel is a cost-effective way to secure your space.

Inspiration

Check out this article on [6 Creative Ways to Make Homemade Canopy Weights](#) for meeting the weight requirements.