

## **LVHMA Weights and Weather Policy**

### **Effective August 1, 2008**

Due to a series of recent violent thunderstorms and extensive tent and product damage at our markets, LVHMA is instituting a **secure tent/canopy/umbrella plan** and **weather policy** for all of its markets.

- **Tent/Canopy/Umbrella plan:** We require that all farmers bring weights to attach to each tent/canopy/umbrella/sign at every market starting not later than August 1, 2008. All LVHMA information and chef tents will be secured with weights at all times. *See weight requirements details below.*
- **Weather policy:** It is up to the discretion of LVHMA staff to open a market late or close early if severe weather is present or predicted.
  - LVHMA' Market Managers will be responsible for obtaining up-to-the-minute weather reports from a LVHMA source or officer **or** an onsite source if an internet phone is available at the market.
  - If tents/canopies/umbrellas/signs need to be taken down in the middle of market due to inclement weather, farmers are expected to direct customers to move out of the way so they are not injured.

**Details on Tent/Canopy/Umbrella/Sign Safety:** Since wind is unpredictable and can come without warning, wind-blown tents, canopies and umbrellas are the number one cause of market injuries and insurance claims for farmers' markets, but nearly all of these claims are preventable.

***ALL CANOPIES, UMBRELLAS, TENTS, SIGNS AND OTHER FORMS OF STALL COVERS MUST BE SUFFICIENTLY AND SAFELY SECURED TO THE GROUND, FROM THE MOMENT THE STALL COVER IS ERECTED AT THE START OF THE MARKET DAY UNTIL THE MOMENT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE IT IS TAKEN DOWN AT THE END OF THE MARKET. IF CANOPIES, TENTS, SIGNS OR UMBRELLAS ARE NOT ADEQUATELY SECURED, LVHMA MANAGEMENT WILL ASK THE FARMER OR PRODUCER TO TAKE THEM DOWN AND SELL WITHOUT THEM.***

- **Sufficiently** means at least 24 pounds per leg for canopies, and at least 50 pounds for umbrellas. *One canopy manufacturer recommends at least 40 pounds on each corner of a 10x10 tent; double that on a 10x20 tent.* Weights for signs will vary depending on size of sign. It will be the Market Managers decision on weight(s) required to sufficiently secure signs.
- **Safely** means that the method used to secure does not create its own safety hazards:
  - Weights should not cause a tripping hazard
  - Weights should be tethered with lines that are clearly visible
  - Weights should have soft edges to avoid causing scrapes and cuts
  - Weights should be securely attached
  - Weights should be on the ground and not above people's heads.

***Examples of safe and sufficient weights listed on the back.***

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#### **Examples of sufficient and safe weights include:**

- Filling an empty paint can with cement and tying this to each corner of the tent with a rope or bungee. It is NOT sufficient to place the can on the feet of the tent.
  
- Filing containers with sand/cement that can be anchored or secured with a rope or bungee; these include canvas bags or plastic buckets/containers that have a handle through which a rope or bungee can be secured.
  
- The PVC pipe filled with cement hangs on the inside of the canopy pole; the PVC pipe should be secured so that it does not move and collide with a customer.

#### **Examples of NOT sufficient or safe weights:**

- Gallon water jugs. These are not heavy enough for large gusts of wind.
  
- Tying tents, canopies or umbrellas to tables, coolers or vehicles.
  
- Sandbags that cannot be placed upright and securely tied to the tent or canopy should not be used. Even the most coordinated person can find a way to trip over this thing!

***\*Bungees should be of the heavy-duty black rubber type and not of the several small bands type.***