

*Please report all accidents and near misses. Things happen and it is important to learn from others. Environmental Health and Safety and your colleagues appreciate hearing about incidents, reviewing their causes and learning from them.*

## TENT SAFETY

Tents are good options to provide temporary shelter from the sun and light rain. They can also present a high potential for accidents and injuries in the event of a fire or collapse. Proper installation, placement and management of tents is required.

### What Happened?

In November 2017, a 10' by 10' tent was set up for an event. At around 1:30 pm, a sudden wind gust of about 20 mph blew the tent into the air. One of the legs of the tent hit an employee in the face and eye as it was landing, resulting in a contusion.

### What Went Right?

The incident was reported and an investigation followed.

### What Should Have Been Done Differently?

All tents need to be properly secured using stakes or ballasts. The design wind speed for the tent used must also be known to help inform a management and response plan for high winds.

### What Corrective Actions Have Been Taken?

Safety information for tents was provided to the managers.

### How Can Incidents Like This Be Prevented?

- Follow tent manufacturer instructions.
- Ensure the tent is properly staked or ballasted. When using stakes, verify the area is free of underground utilities. When using ballasts, ensure the ballast is sufficient in weight and secured to each staking point (approximately 30 pounds tied to each leg for small tents).
- Develop a management plan for the tent to address high wind action planning. The plan should include the following.
  - Identify who will be responsible for removing the tent in the event of a high wind event.
  - Identify the tent's design wind speed. For commonly used 10' by 10' tents, use 20 mph as a limit if no data is provided by the manufacturer.
  - Designate someone as being responsible for monitoring the forecast prior to setting up the tent and during use.
  - Check for potential wind speeds above or near the design wind speed 24 hours prior to the event. If the forecast includes wind speeds greater than or equal to the design wind speed, do NOT set up the tent.
  - Monitor the wind continuously for the duration of the event and initiate the removal of the tent if the design wind speed is approached.
  - Ensure the tent is not left unattended.
- Additional requirements apply for larger tents. Contact EHS at [ehs@yale.edu](mailto:ehs@yale.edu) for more information.



## More Information

**Yale Environmental Health and Safety:** Find Your Safety Advisor (<https://ehs.yale.edu/safety-advisor>)