



Standard Practice for Labeling of Backpacking and Mountaineering Tents and Bivouac Sacks¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice establishes requirements for the information that shall be permanently affixed to backpacking and mountaineering tents and bivouac sacks.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ANSI Standard*:²

[ANSI Z535.4 Product Safety Signs and Labels](#)

2.2 *CPIA Standard*:³

[CPIA-84 Specification for Flame-Resistant Materials Used in Camping Tentage](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *backpacking and mountaineering tent, n*—portable shelter made primarily of fabric weighing less than 3 oz/yd², designed to be carried by the occupants while backpacking or mountaineering.

3.1.2 *bivouac sack, n*—lightweight waterproof bag that covers one or more sleeping bags.

3.1.3 *bivy sack, n*—also known as *bivouac sack*.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.22 on Camping Softgoods.

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² Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

³ Available from Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI), 345 Cedar St., Suite 800, St. Paul, MN 55101-1088.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 These warnings are intended as preventive measures against most reported hazards. This practice may not apply to all tents or bivouac sacks, and should be modified appropriately.

5. Procedure

5.1 The recommended labels are shown in the figures below. The size of the tent label is not defined, but should be readable in accordance with ANSI Z535.4 and based on the size of the tent.

5.2 The tent label is not intended to replace the label required by CPIA-84.

6. Tent Label

6.1 The caution sign and warning label are printed on an orange background 6 in. wide by 1 in. high, with the rest of the wording on a white background. It is recommended that the label be sewn into the tent close to an entrance where the user will easily see it. See [Fig. 1](#).

7. Bivouac Sack Label

7.1 The recommended size of the bivy warning label is 2 in. wide by 4 in. long. The caution sign and “warning” are printed on an orange background 2 in. wide by 1 in. wide, with the rest of the wording on a white background. It is recommended that the label be sewn onto the bivy, on or close to a zipper where it will be easily seen by a user. See [Fig. 2](#).

8. Keywords

8.1 backpacking; bivouac sack; bivy sack; hazards; label; mountaineering; tent

 <h1 style="margin: 0;">WARNING</h1>	
<p>NO FIRE</p> 	<p>Never place your stove, campfire, or any other flame source in or near your tent. Never use, or light, or refuel a stove, lantern, heater, or any other heat source inside your tent. Death by Carbon Monoxide poisoning and/or serious burns are possible.</p> <p>Maintain adequate ventilation inside your tent at all times. Death by suffocation is possible.</p> <p>Anchor your tent properly at all times to reduce the risk of loss or injury to the tent or occupants.</p> <p>Carefully consider the possibility of falling rocks or tree limbs, lightning strikes, flash floods, avalanches, strong winds, and other objective hazards when choosing a campsite to reduce the risk of loss or injury to the tent or occupants.</p>
<p>VENTILATION</p> 	
<p>ANCHOR</p> 	
<p>CAMPSITE CHOICE</p>	
<p>Please consult your owner's manual for additional information. If you do not understand any part of this warning, call (INSERT COMPANY NAME HERE) at (INSERT COMPANY PHONE # HERE) before using the tent.</p>	

FIG. 1 Tent Label




 <h1 style="margin: 0;">WARNING</h1>	
<p>SUFFOCATION HAZARD</p> 	<p>Always leave zipper open enough to provide adequate ventilation to prevent suffocation</p>
<p>FIRE HAZARD</p> 	<p>This shelter is made of materials that may burn if exposed to fire. Keep all sources of flame away</p>
<p>Consult your owner's manual for additional information. If you don't understand any part of this warning, call (INSERT COMPANY NAME HERE) at (INSERT COMPANY PHONE #) before using this shelter.</p>	

FIG. 2 Bivouac Sack Label

APPENDIX

X1. RATIONALE

X1.1 These labels are based on reports from users, and include the most commonly reported hazards. The labels were developed with the cooperation of several manufacturers. The

language was intentionally kept simple, and the icons are intended to be universally recognizable.

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