

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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2009-06	CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY			DECEMBER 10, 2009
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CHRISTMAS TREE REGULATIONS

The following regulations relative to Christmas Trees in public buildings have been adopted as part of the New Hampshire State Fire Code (NFPA 1:10.15, 2003 edition):

- 1) Combustible vegetation, including natural cut Christmas trees, shall be in accordance with the following table:

OCCUPANCY	No trees permitted	Cut tree permitted with automatic sprinkler systems	Cut tree permitted without automatic sprinkler systems	Balled tree permitted
Ambulatory health care				X
Apartment buildings		Within Unit	Within Unit	X
Assembly	X			
Board and Care	X			
Business		X		X
Day-care		X		X
Detention	X			
Dormitories	X			
Educational	X			
Health Care				X
Hotels	X			
Industrial		X	X	X
Lodging and rooming		X		X
Mercantile		X		X
One and two family		X	X	X
Storage		X	X	X

- 2) In any occupancy, limited quantities of combustible vegetation shall be permitted where the AHJ determines that adequate safeguards are provided based on the quantity and nature of the combustible vegetation.
- 3) Vegetation and Christmas trees shall not obstruct corridors, exit ways, or other means of egress.

- 4) Combustible vegetation and natural cut Christmas trees shall not be located near heating vents or other fixed or portable heating devices that could cause it to dry out prematurely or to be ignited.

- 5) Where a natural cut tree is permitted, the bottom end of the trunk shall be cut off with a straight fresh cut at least ½ in. above the end prior to placing the tree in a stand to allow the tree to absorb water. The tree shall be placed in a suitable stand with water. The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily. **The tree shall be removed from the building immediately upon evidence of dryness.**

Local fire chiefs are authorized by the NH State Fire Code to inspect trees on behalf of the State Fire Marshal's Office and to order its removal if a fire hazard exists.

This reminder is provided by the Department of Safety to ensure a safe holiday season for all.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!