

City of Eden Prairie

Fire Prevention Bureau

STATEMENT OF POLICY



Policy #: 017	Subject of Policy: Requirements for Holiday Displays in Public Areas of Buildings	
Approved By: Allen M. Nelson	Title: Fire Marshal	Revised Date: 10/31/2006

Requirements for Holiday Displays in Public Areas

The Minnesota Fire Code (2003) has adopted regulations to allow people to enjoy holiday displays in a fire-safe manner. The City of Eden Prairie follows the Minnesota Fire Code and the State Fire Marshal policies as they relate to holiday displays.

Section 1 – Natural Trees or Wreaths

Natural, resin-bearing trees can present a fire hazard due to their ease of ignition and intensity of burning. As a result, their use is regulated by the code. The rules concerning natural trees allow them to be displayed in homes and within individual apartments without limit.

They are also allowed in schools, churches, hotels, businesses and stores under the following conditions:

- There are no electric lights or open flames (candles) on or near the trees.
- The trees cannot block access to required exits or obstruct or block access to any fire-protection device, appliance or equipment.

Section 2 – Artificial Trees or Wreaths

Artificial trees are allowed in all occupancies. They must meet the following requirements:

- All artificial trees and decorations must be flame retardant. The tree must be labeled as flame retardant or records must be available to show that the tree meets flame retardant requirements.
- The trees cannot block access to required exits or obstruct or block access to any fire-protection device, appliance or equipment.

Section 3 – Electric Lights and Wiring

Electric lights used on artificial trees and wreaths must be listed by U.L. or other nationally recognized listing agencies. The cords must be in good condition. Lights with worn or damaged insulation that exposes bare wires shall not be used.

Temporary wiring (extension cords) is allowed for a maximum period of 90 days.

Section 4 – Fire Code Sections:

The Minnesota Fire Code contains regulations regarding displays of natural and artificial vegetation during the holidays. The applicable sections of the code are listed below.

804.1.1 Christmas trees. The use, display or storage of natural or resin-bearing Christmas trees or decorations is prohibited.

Exceptions:

1. The use and display of natural or resin-bearing Christmas trees or decorations inside individual dwelling units of Group R-2 and R-3 Occupancies is permitted.
2. Natural or resin-bearing trees **without open flames or electric lights** are allowed in Group E Occupancies, Group A Occupancies used for worship purposes, Group R-1 Occupancies used for hotels and congregate residences, Group B Occupancies and Group M Occupancies

605.9 Temporary Wiring. Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting installations is allowed for a period not to exceed ninety days. Temporary wiring methods shall meet the applicable provisions of the *ICC Electrical Code*.

If you have any questions please contact one of the Fire Prevention Bureau Staff listed below.

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