



**Division of Fire Safety**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

Office: 110 Smokey Bear Boulevard, Concord, NH  
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305  
603-223-4289, FAX 603-223-4294

BULLETIN #	TITLE			DATE ISSUED
2015-09	Christmas Tree & Holiday Decorations Regulations			December 9, 2015
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**Informational Bulletin 2015-09**  
**Christmas Tree & Holiday Decorations Regulations**

The following regulations relative to Christmas Trees in public buildings have been adopted as part of the New Hampshire State Fire Code (NFPA 1:10.14, 2009 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
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.**
- 6) When decorating the tree, purchase electric holiday lights that are listed by an approved testing agency and follow the manufacturer's directions. New LED lights are cooler, use less electricity, and are ideal for this application. Older lights should be inspected for frayed wires or any other defects and **NOT** used if defective. Always turn off the lights when the area will be unattended.
- 7) Multiplug adapters (i.e. extension cords, cube adapters, power strips, etc.) shall be listed and used in accordance with their listing and they shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle. **(NFPA 1:11.1.5)**
- 8) Extension cords may be plugged into power strips provided they are listed and the power strip is directly plugged into a permanently installed receptacle and shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration, or damage. **(NFPA 1:11.1.5)**
- 9) Temporary electrical power and lighting installations shall not be permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days for holiday decorative lighting. **(NFPA 11.1.8.4)**
- 10) Tree skirts, wrapped gifts, and any other decorations should not be in direct contact with lights or other heat sources.

**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!*