

Holiday Decorations

As we enter the holiday season, there are several things to keep in mind that will allow us to enjoy and celebrate the holidays safely.

- Artificial decorations may have electrical devices as long as they are used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The only exception to this would be if the decorations have exposed metal surfaces.
- Always be sure that decorations do not block or obstruct exit doors, corridors and pathways.
- Candles or any form of open flame should not be used as a decoration or part of a celebration. Any exception to this **MUST** be approved by the fire marshal prior to the event.
- Any potential source of ignition should be removed from the vicinity of combustible decorations.
- All decorative miniature lights should be UL listed.
- Extension cords should be heavy duty, grounded, 14 gauge (minimum), 15 amp (minimum) and only used on a temporary basis.
- Any cords or lights that have been damaged or altered should not be used.
- Corn stalks and hay bales are very combustible and should be treated with a fire-retardant coating.
- Fire-retardant coatings are not required on natural trees but they will extend the length of time a tree can remain indoors. Freshly cut trees are naturally flame resistant due to their high water content. They become extremely flammable if permitted to dry out and when indoors the heat and lower humidity accelerate this process.
- The following steps should be followed if natural trees are kept indoors:
 1. Saw the trunk off at an angle at least an inch above the original cut
 2. Mount the tree securely in a stable tree stand
 3. Maintain the water level above the cut as long as the tree is indoors and add water daily.

