

# STATE OF NEBRASKA



Dave Heineman  
Governor



STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
John Falgione  
Fire Marshal

## REQUIREMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATIONS AND CANDLES 2003 NPFA 1 Code

### General requirements for Natural Cut Tree

- ❖ Cut trees shall **not be permitted** in the following occupancies: assembly, board and care, detention correction, dormitory, educational, hotels
- ❖ Cut trees permitted in buildings **with automatic sprinkler system** in the following occupancies: apartments, within dwelling unit only, business, day-care, industrial, lodging and rooming, mercantile, storage
- ❖ Cut trees permitted in buildings **without automatic sprinkler system** in the following occupancies: apartment, within dwelling unit only, industrial, storage
- ❖ **Balled trees permitted** in the following occupancies: ambulatory health care, apartment buildings, business, day-care, health care, industrial, lodging and rooming, mercantile, storage. **10.15.1**

**Health Care** balled tree shall have the burlap surrounding the root ball removed.

### Provisions for Natural Cut Trees

Where a natural cut tree is permitted, the bottom end of the trunk shall be cut off with a straight fresh cut at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the end prior to placing the tree in a stand to allow the tree to absorb water. **10.15.9.1**

The tree shall be placed in a suitable stand with water. **10.15.9.2**

The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily. **10.15.9.3**

The tree shall be removed from the building immediately upon evidence of dryness. **10.15.9.4**

Combustible vegetation and natural cut 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. **10.15.8**

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## Provisions for Flame Resistance or Fire Retardance, (Artificial Trees)

Artificial vegetation and artificial Christmas trees are **allowed in all occupancies.**

- ❖ They shall be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being flame retardant or flame resistive. **10.15.3.1**
- ❖ Such flame resistance or flame retardance shall be demonstrated by each individual decorative vegetation item, including any decorative lighting, in an approved manner. **10.15.3.2**
- ❖ Vegetation and Holiday trees shall not obstruct corridors, exit ways, or other means of egress. **10.15.4**
- ❖ Only listed electrical lights and wiring shall be used on natural or artificial combustible vegetation, natural or artificial Christmas trees, and other similar decorations. **10.15.5**
- ❖ Electrical lights shall be prohibited on metal artificial trees. **10.15.6**

Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near combustible vegetation, Christmas trees, or other similar combustible materials. **10.15.7**

## NSFM Official Interpretation on candle burning, O.I. 03-03

Open flame devices are allowed in assembly occupancies under the following circumstances.

**1)** when used for a ceremonial or religious purpose other than handheld candles by occupants in seating areas; **2)** on stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance; **3)** on tables where the candle is securely supported on a substantial noncombustible base and the candle flame is protected; **4)** food preparation operations, or as noted in section **12/13.7.2**. The use of candles in all other occupancies is deemed hazardous to life and property. The authority having jurisdiction shall maintain safe conditions and shall have candles removed.

Candle burning is **NOT** allowed in health care, residential board and care, assisted living, day care center, home day care, hotel, motel and dormitories, rooming and lodging, education, business, mercantile, industrial, detention or storage occupancies unless specifically approved by the authority having jurisdiction. This interpretation does not apply to or include individual living units within apartments or 1-and 2-family dwellings or to supervised medical procedures.

(10/05)

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