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Town of Atlantic Beach
P.O. Box 10/125 W. Fort Macon Rd., Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Fire Safety Notice: Live Christmas Trees

Decorative Vegetation in New and Existing Buildings:

Natural cut trees are **prohibited** in all commercial businesses and buildings unless protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system and properly treated with flame retardant.

Natural cut trees, where permitted, shall have the trunk bottoms cut off at least 0.5 inches above the original cut and shall be placed in an approved, sturdy support device.

In religious assembly occupancies, when in the opinion of the Fire Marshal, adequate safeguards have been taken, treated natural cut Christmas trees are permitted. The tree shall be treated and maintained flame resistant.

Support Devices:

The support device that holds the tree in an upright position shall be of a type that is stable and meets all of the following criteria:

1. The device shall hold the tree securely and be of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree.
2. The device shall be capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water.
3. The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem at least 2 inches. The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily.

Dryness:

The tree shall be removed from the building whenever the needles or leaves fall off readily when a branch is shaken or if the needles are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness.

Obstruction of Means of Egress:

The required width of any portion of a means of egress (exit) shall not be obstructed by decorative vegetation.

Open Flame:

Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near decorative vegetation. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance from heat vents and any open flame or heat-producing devices at least equal to the height of the tree.

Electrical Fixtures and Wiring:

The use of unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on natural cut trees and artificial decorative vegetation shall be prohibited. The use of electrical wiring and lighting on artificial trees constructed entirely of metal shall be prohibited.

It is suggested that you contact the Atlantic Beach Fire Marshal before installing Live Christmas Trees or decorative vegetation in order to ensure that proper safeguards are taken and all applicable fire codes are complied with. The Fire Marshal may be reached at 252-726-7361, 252-659-2660 or may be e-mailed at DeputyChief@atlanticbeach-nc.com. Please help keep this holiday season safe!