

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Decorative Vegetation Requirements- Christmas Trees

The use and display of natural cut trees is strictly regulated by the International Fire Code.

As a general rule, cut Christmas trees are only allowed in occupancies with a fire sprinkler system. Cut trees are allowed in single family residences and “B” occupancies without sprinkler systems. Cut trees are not allowed in “I” occupancies, including day-care centers.

All of the following must be strictly observed when cut trees are allowed:

- 1) The bottom ½” shall be cut off immediately prior to installing the tree in its support device.
- 2) The tree must be placed in a support device, which is stable, holds the tree securely and will prevent the tree from tipping over.
- 3) The support device must be capable of containing a two day supply of water.
- 4) The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem at least 2 inches. The water level shall be maintained above fresh cut and checked at least once daily.
- 5) The tree shall be removed immediately if the needles fall off readily when a branch is shaken or if the needles are brittle and break when bent between the thumb and index finger. This check shall be made daily.
- 6) Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near cut trees. Natural cut trees shall be kept a distance from heat vents and any open flame or heat producing device at least equal to the height of the tree.
- 7) Only listed electrical wiring and lighting may be used on cut trees.

Please feel free to call the Fire District should you have any questions regarding these requirements.

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