

# **Alabama Department of Public Health, Technical Services Unit**

## **Christmas Trees**

11/21/00

NFPA 1 (Fire Prevention Code), Section 3-9 COMBUSTIBLE VEGETATION, contains the following requirements:

1. Natural cut Christmas trees shall be permitted only in areas protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
2. Artificial Christmas trees shall be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being "flame retardant" or "flame resistive."
3. No Christmas trees shall be allowed to obstruct corridors, exit ways, or other means of egress.
4. Only listed electrical lights and wiring shall be used on Christmas trees and similar decorations.
5. Electric lights are prohibited on metal artificial trees.
6. Open flames, such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters and gas fired heaters, shall not be located on or near Christmas trees or other similar combustible materials.
7. Natural cut Christmas trees shall not be located near heating vents or other heating devices that could cause the tree to dry out prematurely or to be ignited.
8. Where natural trees are permitted, the bottom end of the trunk shall have a straight fresh cut at least 1/2 inch above the original cut end, made immediately prior to the trees's being placed in a suitable stand with adequate water. The water level shall be checked and maintained on a daily basis. The tree shall be removed from the building immediately upon evidence of dryness.