

# HEALTHCARE FACILITY HOLIDAY DECORATING

Holiday decorating is a special tradition. But many decorations also create fire hazards. Putting fire safety first assures that the holiday spirit lasts until the holidays pass. Prevent tragedy by following these tips for fire safe decorating.

\* Fire-retardant decorations or decorations treated making them fire-retardant are required in Health Care Facilities. Flame resistant material **must not** exceed 10% of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings.

\* Natural cut tress shall not be permitted.

\* Buy lights that are UL listed, then plug them in for 15 minutes before decorating. Check for excessive heat or damaged wiring.

\* Check your lights for cracked or frayed wires and loose or broken plugs.

\* **Avoid** over load light strings. **Do not** connect more than 200 miniature lights or 50 large lights together. Small lights are safer because they produce less heat.

\* **Do not** block exits or fire pull stations with decorations or Christmas trees.

\* **Do not** hang decorations on light fixtures, smoke detectors, or sprinkler heads.

\* Decorations on doors should not prevent their function or cover the identifications as the means of egress.

**Outside Decorating** - Remember to be fire safe outside as well as inside. A fire that starts close to a building can spread to the structure and threaten lives.

\* **Do not** use indoor lights for outdoor decorating. A label on the box will tell you if they are safe to use outside.

\* Limit the use of heavy duty extension cords.

\* Be sure extension and light cords do not create a tripping hazard.

\* **Do not** block the exit discharge with holiday decorations.