Don’t Get Burned This Holiday Season!

Facilities seldom look more beautiful than when they're decorated for the holidays. Unfortunately, decorations also contribute to a number of fires. Remember to balance beauty with safety with some holiday decoration safety tips:

CHRISTMAS TREES
• If using live trees, ensure they are freshly cut. Needles should be soft and springy and not fall off.
• Saw off a section of the trunk at least one (1) inch above the original cut and place tree in a sturdy, large-capacity stand with plenty of water.
• Water the tree daily to keep it moist. Dry trees can ignite quickly if exposed to heat, electrical sparks, or open flames.
• Open flames should be kept at least five (5) feet from any live or artificial trees, wreaths etc.
• Immediately remove any trees that no longer absorbs water.
• Display live trees no longer than 15 days.
• As a best practice, affix a tag to each tree with the date of placement and by whom.
• If multiple live trees are to be displayed, ensure there is at least ten (10) feet separation.
• To prevent live trees from quickly drying out, avoid placing them near heating ducts, radiators etc.

LIGHTS
• Before hanging any lights, check all electrical decorations for fraying or exposed wires. If defects are found, cut off the plug and discard the decoration.
• Use tree lights and holiday lighting approved and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriters Laboratories.
• Turn off all holiday lighting when the building is vacant.
• Never use staples or nails to secure the wiring of outdoor lights.
• Don't link more than three light strands together, unless package directions indicate it's safe.
• Be careful not to overload outlets and extension cords.

CANDLES
• Use traditional candles carefully and sparingly (LED lights are recommended).
• Place candles in sturdy, non-combustible candleholders large enough to collect all wax.
• Make sure candles are out of falling distance from any live or artificial Christmas tree, wreath or decoration.
• Extinguish all candles when leaving the facility!

Reference: www.NFPA.org