



# Corona Fire Department

## Christmas Tree Sales and Display Guidelines per 2016 California Fire Code

### PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the details necessary for the sale and/or display of Christmas trees within the City of Corona. The Fire Chief may waive any of these requirements upon receipt of alternate methods and materials that meet the intent of these standards.

### SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all temporary and/or permanent structures for Christmas tree sales, to Christmas tree lots and to the display of Christmas trees in public facilities. The display requirements are from the 2013 edition of the California Fire Code, Section 806.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Christmas Tree Sales

1. All temporary structures erected on the site shall be by Building Permit and shall be removed from the site by January 1, of each year, following the holiday.
2. All electrical installations shall be by permit and shall be inspected by the Building Department.
3. All installations shall comply with the requirements of the 2016 California Fire Code.
4. A sign shall be placed in such a position on the site so as to be visible by all purchasers of trees. Sign shall state: **“Trees intended to be used in public buildings shall be sprayed with a fire retardant material approved by the California State Fire Marshal.”**
5. Flame retardant application shall be made by a registered flame retardant concern. An approved certificate of flame resistance shall be furnished by the person or concern, to the buyer, the State Fire Marshal, and the local fire department, *as set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 8.*
6. Removal of all cuttings, trimmings, trash and waste shall be accomplished promptly so that the area remains free of trash and debris at all times.
7. A person may inhabit a trailer or camper on the site for security purposes during the effective dates of the subject permit.
8. No open fires or open flames shall be permitted within any structure or within 15 feet of any trees.
9. Trees shall not be sprayed with flammable materials.
10. Trees for sale shall be subject to periodic field inspections by Fire Department personnel. If found to be dry, or should needles fall upon shaking, the tree shall be declared a fire hazard and shall be disposed of immediately. (Dry or hazardous tree(s) shall not be sold or given away.) The following method will be used to check for dryness:
  - a. Stand in front of the branch to be tested

- b. Grasp tree branch with reasonably firm pressure and pull hand away from tree, allowing branch to slip through grasp
  - c. If needles fall off readily, tree does not contain adequate moisture content and shall be removed immediately.
11. Trees shall be set back and secured a minimum of 10 feet on either side of any exit doors.
  12. Trees shall be placed in a manner as to leave a minimum of 25 feet of the driveway unobstructed for emergency access.
  13. A minimum of two 2A10BC fire extinguishers shall be required and mounted in clear view. Additional extinguishers may be required based on the volume of trees and/or the size of the retail area.

## **B. Display of Christmas Trees in Public Buildings**

1. Natural cut trees, where allowed by Section 806.1, shall have the trunk bottoms cut off at least 0.5 inch above the original cut and shall be placed in a supportive device meeting the following:
  - a. Device shall hold the tree securely, and be adequately sized to prevent tipping.
  - b. Device shall be capable of containing a minimum two-day supply of water.
  - c. The water level, when full, shall cover the tree stem at least two inches. The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily.
2. Natural cut trees shall be prohibited in Group A, E, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, M, R-1, R-2 and R-4 occupancies.
 

**Exception:**

  - a. Trees located in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system shall not be prohibited in Groups A, E, M, R-1 and R-2
  - b. Trees shall be allowed within dwelling units of Group R-2 occupancies.
3. Trees 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 thumb and index finger. The tree shall be checked daily for dryness.
4. Consumers purchasing natural Christmas trees for display in public buildings regulated by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, shall notify the Corona Fire Department prior to the display of any tree. Verification of flame retardant treatment shall be provided. Christmas tree display shall not extend past December 26, unless otherwise approved by the Fire Prevention Division.
5. All trees sprayed with fire retardant material shall have a tag affixed to the base containing the following information:
  - a. Type of material sprayed on the tree
  - b. Date the tree was sprayed
  - c. Name of the person who applied the flame retardant
  - d. Name of the person affixing the tag
  - e. Date of placement in the public building
  - f. The permit expiration date
  - g. The name of the individual who will make the daily test
6. 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 device at least equal to the height of the tree.
7. The use of unlisted wiring and lighting on natural cut trees and decorative artificial vegetation shall be prohibited. The use of electrical wiring and lighting on artificial trees constructed entirely of metal shall be prohibited.

8. A 2A10BC fire extinguisher shall be visible and accessible within 25' of the tree display.
9. Christmas trees displayed for the holiday season shall be subject to field inspection, from time to time, to verify the moisture content of the tree and evaluate the potential hazards.
10. The required width of any portion of a means of egress shall not be obstructed by decorative vegetation.
11. Artificial decorative vegetation shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701. Meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer in an approved manner. This documentation shall be retained and may be requested upon inspection.