

CHARLIE BRERETON DIRECTOR

# OFFICE of INSPECTOR GENERAL CERTIFICATION BUREAU Holiday Decorations Notice Updated: December 5, 2023

The Life Safety Code considers the following items to be highly flammable:

- Christmas Trees
- Holiday wreaths produced from tree branches
- Garland produced from tree branches

The Certification Bureau provides the following guidelines and precautions for the use of trees and decorations in health care facilities:

#### LIVE TREES:

Live trees inside a healthcare facility are strictly prohibited.

## **HOLIDAY WREATHS AND GARLAND PRODUCED FROM TREE BRANCHES:**

Garland and holiday wreaths produced from branches of trees are strictly prohibited throughout all healthcare facilities.

#### **ARTIFICIAL TREES:**

Artificial trees are permitted inside healthcare facilities.

Facilities must follow manufacturer's directions and instructions for use. Artificial trees with factory wired with lights are acceptable if UL or FM tested.

### **HOLIDAY LIGHTS:**

Exterior lighting circuits must have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. Interior lighting is permitted, so long as the lighting is UL or FM tested and approved.

#### **HOLIDAY DECORATIONS:**

Evergreen boughs for decoration inside a health care facility is prohibited. The exception is floral arrangements with evergreens placed in a water source. Pen flames and/or candles are prohibited.

If you have any questions regarding safety issues, please contact the Certification Bureau at (406) 444-2099 or email the Bureau at MTSSAD@mt.gov.

NFPA References: NFPA 2012 Edition Sections: 4.6, 18.7.5.6; 19.7.5.6