



EL DORADO HILLS FIRE PROTECTION STANDARD

CHRISTMAS TREE LOTS

STANDARD # E-003

REVISED 11-10-2012

PURPOSE:

This guide is intended to provide safety standards and regulations for the operation of Christmas Tree lots.

SCOPE:

To provide Christmas Tree Lots with standard fire safety requirements for the safety of civilians and reduce the risk of fire.

AUTHORITY:

The 2010 California Fire Code and amendments as adopted by the Fire Department.

REQUIREMENTS:

Permits:

A Special or Temporary Use Permit shall be confirmed to be in place with the El Dorado County prior to operation of any lot.

Electrical Wiring:

1. Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap, or multi-plug adaptor and, except for approved multi-plug extension cords, shall serve only one appliance.
2. The ampere rating of the extension cords shall not be less than the rated capacity if the portable appliance served by the cord.
3. Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.
4. Extension cords shall be grounded when serving portable grounded equipment.

Tents:

1. All tents 200 square feet or larger and canopies 400 square feet and larger must comply with the Fire Code and CCR Title 19.
2. The tent must be flame retardant and have a State Fire Marshal tag permanently affixed to the tent.

Outdoor Fire Pits or Open Burning:

1. Below-Ground Fire Pits

- a. Shall be at least 25 feet away from structures and combustible materials such as trees, decks, cars, sheds, and also charcoal lighter fluid, gasoline and kerosene.
- b. They shall be at least 4 inches deep and surrounded by a wall of non-combustible material, such as steel, brick or cement.
- c. The below-ground pit shall be no more than 3 feet in diameter or more than 2 feet in height.

2. Freestanding Fire Pit

- a. Shall be located at least 15 feet away from structures and combustible materials.
- b. A freestanding pit shall always include a spark-resistant screen, and the screen should be large enough to easily cover the fire wood used.

3. Liquid Propane or Natural Gas Fueled Fire Pit

- a. Valves, hoses, and attachments shall be checked periodically for leaks. Emergency shut-off valves shall always be located before starting a fire in case it becomes necessary to extinguish the flames quickly.

- b. Must be used per manufacturer guidelines

4. The fire must be fueled by clean, seasoned firewood, natural gas or other clean burning fuel (with emissions equal to or less than that created by seasoned firewood).

5. The fire's total fuel area can be no more than three feet in diameter and no higher than two feet.

6. Supervision

- a. The fire shall always be constantly supervised by at least one person over the age of 18 until the fire is completely extinguished.
- b. A portable certified fire extinguisher rated at a minimum of 4A rating or other firefighting equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

Flame Retardant Application:

Any person(s) conducting “flame retardant” application of Christmas Trees must have a valid license issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The person who is named on the license must be present on site when flame retardant application is being conducted.

Heating Appliances:

All heating appliances must be approved by the Fire Department. Propane heaters must be secured and must be at least 25’ from combustibles (hay, trees, trash, etc.) and cannot be inside tents or under canopies, etc.

Required Signage:

1. Approved signs that clearly state: **“All trees placed in any public building must be properly treated with a State Fire Marshal approved flame retardant chemical”** must be posted at all entrances to the Christmas tree sales lot and at the sales counter. The lettering shall be a minimum of 2” in height with a contrasting background.
2. Approved NO SMOKING signs shall be posted in easily visible locations on the tree lot.

Fire Extinguisher:

A minimum of one 2A10BC and one 2A water fire extinguisher with current State Fire Marshal tags attached are required to be readily accessible within 75’ of travel distance to the lot.

Minimum Aisle Widths:

The storage or display of Christmas trees shall be arranged so as to provide access and aisle widths of a minimum of 36 inches.

Deadline for Removal of Product After Christmas:

The owner or responsible party for the property shall be responsible to remove all unsold trees, combustible waste and heavy accumulation of sawdust from the place where the trees were sold, displayed or stored before January 10th.

Christmas Trees in Commercial Buildings

Refer to El Dorado County Regional Fire Protection Standard E-002.