MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 8-1
CHRISTMAS TREES & DECORATIVE VEGITATION

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ISSUE:

Acceptable types of decorative vegetation or Christmas trees and acceptable locations for their display in commercial and public buildings, and in common areas of multi-unit residential buildings.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

The use, display and storage of natural cut trees or decorations is prohibited in group A, E, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, M, R-1, R-2 & R-4 occupancies.

Exceptions:

1. ***Natural cut trees and decorations may be displayed within individual dwelling units in R2 and R3 occupancies.***
2. ***Natural cut trees may be located in areas protected by sprinklers in Group A, E, M, R-1, & R-2 occupancies.***

PROBLEM:

The fire code does not clearly identify all issues, options or maintenance requirements.

ACCEPTABLE COMPLIANCE:

Definitions:

Natural cut tree: Trees or parts thereof and decorations made from parts of natural trees.

Artificial tree: Made of artificial materials which are fire retardant.

Acceptable locations:

- **Natural cut trees may be located within individual dwelling units.**
- **Natural cut trees are allowed in areas protected by sprinklers in schools (E occupancies), Places of worship, bars, restaurants, etc. (A occupancies), hotels and congregate residences (R-1 occupancies), offices (B occupancies) and retail sales stores (M occupancies).**
- **The required width of exitways is to be maintained and not obstructed in any way by trees or decorations.**
- **Natural trees may only be located in skyways, tunnels, courts, atriums and lobbies when those areas are protected by fire sprinkler systems.**

Maintenance:

- **Natural trees are to have their trunks cutoff at least ½ inch above the original cut. The tree is to sit in at least 2 inches of water in a container that is capable of holding at least 2 days water supply. The water level is to be checked daily and maintained.**
- **Open flame or candles are NOT to be placed on trees or located next to trees. Electric lights are to be listed. Natural trees are not to be located near heating devices.**
- **Natural trees are to be removed whenever their needles are brittle or start to fall off.**
- **Artificial trees are to be fire retardant, a copy of the certifying document is to be available for inspection.**