



Environmental Health and Safety
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TO: Georgia Tech Building Managers and Occupants
FROM: Michael L. Hodgson, GT Fire Safety Coordinator
RE: Christmas Trees and Decorations
DATE: 10-16-07

The following are mandatory requirements for Christmas Trees and Decorations within any Georgia Tech managed facilities.

The State's minimum fire safety code requirements regarding Christmas trees and decorations in public buildings, which may be found in Subsection 10.3.5 of the Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, 2000 edition states the following:

"Furnishings or decorations of an explosive or highly flammable character shall not be used."

Christmas trees that have not been effectively treated with flame retardant, ordinary crepe paper decorations and plastic decorations are all classified as "highly flammable".

Artificial trees, which are listed as flame retardant by an independent testing laboratory, such as (UL) Underwriters Laboratories, should be utilized. Trees must be placed so as not to block exits, obstruct access to exits, or visibility thereof. Trees shall also be placed in secure stands and away from heaters.

Live trees may be used, provided they meet the following:

1. They are in fact live, (i.e., they have a root-ball system still attached and are placed in containers with dirt;
2. They are well maintained and watered.

NOTE: THE GEORGIA TECH FIRE SAFETY OFFICE RECOMMENDS USING ONLY UL-LISTED ARTIFICIAL TREES IN CAMPUS FACILITIES.