



West Allis Fire Department
Bureau of Fire Prevention and Urban Affairs
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West Allis, WI 53214
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Checklist for Inspection of Christmas Tree Lots

The reference for Christmas tree lots under municipal ordinance provides for the establishment of a seasonal business on vacant property or commercial zoned property with another business or use on the property. The responsibility of the fire department is to assure that these seasonal/temporary businesses are compliant with State and Municipal Fire Prevention Codes. Due to the combustible nature of these cut natural trees and the amount of trees stored on the lot, it is important that particular attention to storage configuration and possible ignition sources be addressed by the natural cut Christmas tree lot operator. The license is not to be released by the Fire Prevention Bureau until all fire code violations and concerns are corrected.

For the purpose of this paragraph, the following minimum standards shall apply to the storage, handling and display of Christmas trees and foliage:

_____ Trees and foliage shall be stacked not closer than ten (10) feet from any gasoline pump or other device for the transfer of petroleum products.

_____ Aisles or clear spaces of not less than three (3) feet shall be maintained at all times.

_____ No Christmas trees or foliage shall contact any electric wires. All temporary lighting shall comply with State and Municipal Electrical Codes and Fire Prevention Codes. Any electrical violations will be referred to the City of West Allis Electrical Inspector.

_____ A fire extinguisher with a 2A10BC rating or greater shall be provided by the merchant for each seventy-five (75) feet of travel in the display and/or storage area.

_____ All storage and sales of Christmas trees and foliage shall be held outside of all buildings (this includes canopy areas and building overhangs). Storage/sales area must be at least 20 feet from any structure. Vehicle parking must be at least 10 feet from the storage/sales area.

_____ It shall be unlawful to light a match or any flame producing device, or to smoke or carry a lighted cigar, cigarette or pipe in areas where Christmas trees or foliage is sold, displayed or stored. The person in charge of the Christmas tree sales shall post "NO SMOKING" signs in locations designed to give persons entering the area notice of this regulation.

_____ All temporary heating devices and heat/ignition sources shall be placed at least twenty feet from the storage/sales area. No open burning or fires are allowed.

Above listed are minimum standards and are not full sections of the State and Municipal Fire Prevention Codes. All of these codes shall apply and violations will be noted and forwarded to City Clerk and City Attorney for review.