

FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

Title: Christmas Tree Sales Lots		
Number: FPG-10	Effective Date: 01/01/2023	Revised Date: 03/01/2023
Code References: California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC)		
Note: <i>This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>		

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES LOTS

SCOPE

This Guideline has been developed to assist Christmas tree lot operators in compliance with the City of Merced Fire Code.

CODES AND GUIDELINES

This guideline shall apply to buildings, temporary structures including tents or outdoor areas used to display Christmas trees for sale. Said lots shall be in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

PERMITS REQUIRED

Operational permit may be required.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

- a. 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.
- b. The ampacity of the extension cords shall not be less than the rated capacity if the portable appliance served by the cord.
- c. Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.
- d. Extension cords shall be grounded when serving portable grounded equipment.

OPEN BURNING

Per the Air Pollution District (SJVAPCD) and Fire Department regulations— Wood burning stoves, campfires or other types of open burning are not allowed.

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

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.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

A minimum of one 2-A:10-B:C and one 2-A water fire extinguisher with current State Fire Marshal tags attached are required to be readily accessible within 75’ of travel distance to the lot.

NO SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited in or near Christmas tree sales lots. “NO SMOKING” signs are to be posted at each entrance to the lot. If a fence encloses the lot, a sign is to be posted on each side of the perimeter of the fence.

TENTS AND MEMBRANE STRUCTURES

Membrane structures 400 square feet or larger must comply with the Fire Code and CCR Title 19. An operational permit for membrane structures is required. Please refer to the



MMC for the current fee schedule. Contact the City of Merced Fire Prevention at 209-385-4777 for additional information.

- a. The tent must be flame retardant and have a State Fire Marshal tag permanently affixed to the tent.