

Holiday Decorating Reminders from Bureau of Fire Services

The Bureau of Fire Services understands that senior living communities strive to provide a home-like atmosphere, especially during the holiday season. In doing so, it's important to decorate with safety in mind. The bureau offers the following reminders:

- Only artificial trees and wreath that are flame-resistant and labeled by Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or another approved testing agency are allowed.
- Do not suspend decorations from sprinkler heads or smoke detectors.
- Do not place decorations within 18 inches of a sprinkler head, or obstruct exit signs, fire alarm strobes/ pull stations, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Ensure all doors and exit access corridors remain unobstructed.
- All trees must be displayed in alcoves or seating areas and shall not obstruct corridors.
- Fire doors, including hallway and patient room doors, shall not be wrapped.
- Decorations should not block views through windows and vision panels.
- Do not place light strings such that they create a trip hazard.
- Only approved electrical power strips should be used and never daisy chained.
- No real candles may be used due to the high risk of fire.
- Decorations should not be placed within 3 feet of electrical or other heat-producing equipment.
- Christmas cards and artwork may be displayed on walls in limited quantities. Decorations shall not exceed 30% of the wall, ceiling or door area within a room if the room is sprinkled.
- Over-the-door hooks can be used if they do not interfere with closing and latching of the door.

Most importantly, clearly communicate with your staff about your decorations policy.