

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 3-3  
CHRISTMAS TREE LOTS, SALES AND STORAGE**

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**ISSUE:**

Storage and retail sales of cut, resin bearing trees and similar materials.

**CODE REQUIREMENTS:**

*Retail sales of Christmas trees must meet all the requirements of Minneapolis Regulatory Services, this policy only addresses fire safety issues.*

*Outside storage of combustible materials is not to be located closer than 10 feet from property lines. Combustible storage is not to be located under building overhangs, unless protected by fire sprinklers.*

**PROBLEM:**

The code does not sufficiently address all issues created by Christmas tree lots.

**MFD ACCEPTABLE COMPLIANCE:**

MFD does not require permits for tree lots.

Trees are not to be stored in buildings unless approved in writing by the fire department.

Tree lots are to comply with the following:

1. A minimum of 2 egress exits must be provided from an enclosed tree lot. Each exit shall be placarded as an exit.
2. Exit access aisles shall be at least 36 inches in width and lead to an exit.
3. Intervening aisles shall be at least 18 inches and connect to exit access aisles.
4. There shall be no smoking in or near the lot and no smoking signs shall be posted at no less than 30 foot intervals.
5. Outdoor storage is to be kept at least 10 feet from property lines (unless it is determined by the fire department that there is no hazard to or from the adjoining property). Storage is to be kept at least 5 feet from combustible walls or eave lines and building openings.
6. Weeds, grass and other vegetation are to be removed from the perimeter of the lot when it is determined that it may contribute to the spread of fire.
7. Recreational fires or open burning are not allowed in or near tree lots.
8. At least 2 portable 2A rated fire extinguishers are to be provided on site.
9. Liquid Petroleum (Propane) use or storage requires an operational permit from the Bureau of Fire Prevention and is to comply with the following:
  - a. Propane tanks are to be located at least 10 feet from streets, alleys, tents, buildings and vehicle parking and at least 5 feet from stored trees. Exception: When directly connected to salamander style heaters mounted on portable trailers.
  - b. Individual propane tanks are not to exceed 100 gallon capacity.
  - c. Tanks are to be secured from tampering and protected from mechanical damage.
  - d. The refilling or exchange of tanks is to take place during non business hours.
  - e. A minimum 40-BC portable fire extinguisher shall be provided on site.