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A QUICK UPDATE FROM THE COVENANT HEALTHCARE OFFICE OF SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Holiday Decorations

November 15, 2023

Many staff members enjoy hanging festive holiday decorations. The 2012 edition of the *Life Safety Code (LSC)* sets a variety of provisions that give us guidelines to our decoration policy and help you keep decorations safe for yourself and Covenant HealthCare.

Please share this and the updated safety manual policy [FS.018 Decorations](#) with your staff. Department directors and **managers are responsible** for ensuring that holiday decorations in their areas comply with these guidelines.

- **Only** UL approved lights are permitted on UL approved and fire-retardant artificial trees. No household grade extension cords.
- **NO** natural cut or once-live evergreen trees or garlands are allowed.
- **NO** artificial Christmas trees are allowed unless labeled or otherwise identified or certified as "flame retardant" or "flame resistant.". Please send documentation to the Safety Office (fax 3.1238).
- **NO** decorations can obstruct exits or the signs pointing to them.
- **NO** combustible decorations are permitted. All decorations must be flame retardant and labeled as so. These decorations shall always be kept away from ignition sources (e.g., light fixtures, electrical receptacles, etc.).
- **NO** decorations that are explosive or highly flammable are allowed (e.g., decorative crepe paper or pyroxylin plastic decorations).
- **NO** decorations that impair the visibility of an exit sign, pull stations, emergency oxygen shutoff valves or portable fire extinguisher.
- **NO** decorations that impair the proper operation of the fire sprinkler system are permitted. Do not attach anything to sprinkler heads or to sprinkler pipe. **Nothing should be suspended from the ceiling.**
- **NO** decorations may be attached to painted surfaces with tape or staples- poster mounting putty or 3M Command Strips.
- **NO** wall decorations in excess of 10% of that wall surface area are allowed so as not to substantially increase the fuel load.
- **No open flames** including candles and Sterno. Decorations shall not include devices that produce airborne particulates such as incense (wax warmers, wall plug in diffusers, essential oil diffusers, fog machines) or utilize a flammable liquid or oil.

Please remember **open flames** are **NOT** permitted in any Covenant HealthCare occupied facility. Please remind your staff when they are ordering catered meals.



Extraordinary care for every generation.



OUR PATIENTS