



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Office of State Fire Marshal
52 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0052

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR
MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER
SHAWN ESLER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Guidance 24-002

DATE: October 21, 2024
TO: Inspection / Plans Review Division
CC: Inspection / Plans Review Supervisors
SUBJECT: **Live Christmas Tree Guidance**

The Office of State Fire Marshal wishes everyone a safe and festive Holiday Season. Toward this end, the following guidance has been developed for the use of natural Christmas Trees or cut green in public buildings. Some communities throughout Maine have regulations that may be more stringent than this guidance. In these municipalities, the Fire Chief or Code Enforcement Official will set the standards for the use of natural greens and trees.

Assembly-	Natural trees not permitted
Board & Care-	Natural trees not permitted
Business-	Cut tree permitted with sprinkler system or a Balled Tree permitted
Daycare Home*-	Cut trees are permitted as long as well watered
Daycare Center**-	Cut tree permitted with sprinkler system or a Balled Tree permitted
Dormitories-	Natural trees not permitted
Educational-	Natural trees not permitted
Health Care-	Natural trees not permitted
Hotels-	Natural trees not permitted
Rooming & Lodging-	Balled Tree permitted
Mercantile-	Cut tree permitted with sprinkler system or a Balled Tree permitted

*Daycare Homes are 12 or less children

**Daycare Centers are 13 or more children

Natural living, balled or cut trees and greens, treated or untreated, will continue to be banned in all patient care facilities. Any natural tree shall be removed from the building immediately upon evidence of dryness.

I trust my supervisors to handle all matters related to this guidance and execute this guidance as their own.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Esler'.

Shawn Esler, State Fire Marshal