



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Administration Offices

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**DECORATIVE MATERIALS, CANDLES, AND SAFETY INFORMATION IN
COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES AND PUBLIC AREAS**

The Westlake Fire Department would like to take this time to remind you about the importance of making your establishment a safe and secure facility for your patrons, and employees. **The following information applies to all mercantile stores; businesses; medical, nursing & assisted living facilities; educational; recreational; places of worship; and public areas of multi-family residential buildings (not in individual units).**

DECORATIVE MATERIALS

The 2011 Ohio Fire Code, Section 807 defines decorative material as: All materials such as curtains, draperies, streamers, surface coverings applied over the building finish for decorative or acoustical purposes. Additionally, cloth, cotton batting, straw, hay, vines, leaves, trees, moss, foam, plastics and materials containing foam plastics used for decorative effect are included in this section. **The Ohio Fire Code requires all decorative material to be noncombustible or flame resistant in accordance with NFPA 701.**

ART/CRAFT SHOWS (Indoors and Outdoors)

A fire safety inspection is required for all art/craft shows throughout the year. A fire inspector will inspect the show site checking for overuse of extension cords/surge protectors, combustible materials, safe aisle way and egress clearance, to help keep your patrons and facility safe and hazard free. Call WFD to request this service, 440-871-3441.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Cut Christmas trees, straw, hay, vines and leaves cannot be made flame resistant to meet the required standards and are prohibited. Artificial decorations with a flame resistant rating are recommended.

LIGHTING & EXTENSION CORDS

Use of decorative lighting must be UL Listed and comply with the directions supplied by the manufacturer. Extension cords are strongly discouraged, but if used shall be UL Listed, properly sized for the electrical load, not subject to physical damage, and not used as permanent wiring.

GENERAL CANDLE USE AND HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Burning candles in any place of business is strictly prohibited. Any open flame or burning candle(s) are not permitted in public areas where occupants congregate, or in an aisle or exit, without the approval of the code official per OFC 308.

- Lit candles on the altar/platform area of churches are permitted in approved candle holders.
- Hand held candles that pass the flame from one to another must have non-combustible hand protectors and a member of the congregation shall be assigned to a "fire watch" with a fire extinguisher and cell phone present during the candle use.

CLEAR EGRESS

Entrance/exit egress as well as corridors, aisles, etc. shall remain accessible and unobstructed at all times. Merchandise or storage items shall not obstruct aisles and/or exits from back store rooms. Storage or obstructions in hallways and restrooms is strictly prohibited.

If you have any questions, or to request an inspection, contact us at the Fire Prevention Office at 440-835-6422.

Michael Freeman
Assistant Fire Chief