

October 30, 2008

Dear Chief:

As the holiday season approaches, there are sure to be questions regarding natural-cut Christmas trees in occupancies deemed assemblies. This letter contains important information concerning this issue. We are sending this letter because you are a deputy of the Department of Commerce in accordance with section 101.14(2)(a), Wisconsin Statutes.

The Wisconsin Fire Prevention Code, Chapter Comm 14, Wisconsin Administrative Code, incorporates by reference the 2006 edition of the Uniform Fire Code, NFPA 1, developed by the National Fire Protection Association. Natural-cut Christmas trees are addressed by NFPA 1, section 10.14, entitled Combustible Vegetation.

NFPA 1, section 10.14.2, contains express language that allows you, as the Authority Having Jurisdiction, to permit Christmas trees where you determine that adequate safeguards are provided based on the quantity and nature of the combustible vegetation. We trust your judgment relative to permitting natural cut Christmas trees within your jurisdiction.

Please note, NFPA 1, sections 10.14.3 through 10.14.9.4 contain requirements that address natural cut Christmas trees where permitted.

We hope this information is of help to you. If you have any further questions please contact Joe Hertel in the Safety and Buildings division at 608.266.5649.

Sincerely,



Dick Leinenkugel
Secretary