Decorating with lights during the holidays is a tradition for many businesses. Employers can ensure a business full of holiday cheer by paying attention to a few restrictions established within the 2006 International Fire Code and required by the city of Aurora. By following these precautions, employers will ring in a New Year free from holiday headaches.

- Natural cut trees and vegetation are not allowed for decoration in business buildings. (minor exceptions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis)

- Decorations and other objects should be placed so as not to block or obstruct exits, access points or visibility.

- Open flames and candles cannot be used on or near any type of decorative vegetation. Trees must be placed away from heat vents, open flames and any other type of heat producing devices, at a distance that is equal to the height of the tree.

- Artificial decorative vegetation should be flame resistant or flame retardant, as documented and certified by the manufacturer.

- Unlisted electrical wiring and lighting on decorative vegetation is not allowed. Electrical wiring on metal artificial trees is also not allowed.

- Please ensure that all wiring, extension cords and light sets are UL listed and in good repair. As you are decorating, take care to prevent any potential tripping hazards and place your decorations so that wiring is protected from the elements. Wiring should not run under carpets, through doors, or be used in places where it can be damaged.

Keep your holidays happy and safe by remembering the rules of fire safety and taking these extra precautions.

If you have questions about holiday decorations, please call the Aurora Fire Department at 303-326-8999.