



HALESITE F. D. NEWS



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HOUSE FIRE KILLS CHILDREN, 11 AND 6

The tragedy that this headline reports is even more tragic because the deaths could easily have been avoided. Fire marshals concluded that this fire last month in a Queens home was started by "unattended candles". In addition fire officials reported that there were no working smoke detectors in the home.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that there are an average of **32 home candle fires reported every day**, with more fires reported in December than in any other month. Candles are an open flame and can easily ignite any combustible nearby. They should not be left unattended and should not be used near drapes, furniture, decorations, or flammable liquids.

As we stress every year, smoke alarms save lives. The National Fire Protection Association reports "The risk of dying in a reported home structure fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms."

Install smoke detectors outside sleeping areas and on every level of your home. Clean them and check batteries every year. Consider using alarms that have a ten year battery life.

For more fire prevention information visit www.nfpa.org.

SAVE THE DATES

December

- 5 - 7 Annual Christmas Tree Sale
- 7 Annual Holiday Party for Children in the Fire District

January

- 9 Blood Drive

February

- 1 Pancake Breakfast

FLU VS. EBOLA

The Ebola virus has captured world attention lately. With an average mortality rate of over 50%, it is a scary virus that has claimed about 4,500 lives worldwide. Flu, on the other hand, claims about 20,000 lives every year in the United States alone.

Flu symptoms vary and some people, such as older people and young children, are at higher risk for serious complications of flu. Peak months for flu activity are December thru March with February having by far the highest number of incidents. Flu patients will typically have some or all of the following symptoms:

- fever
- cough
- sore throat
- muscle aches
- headaches

The Center for Disease Control advises that the best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine.

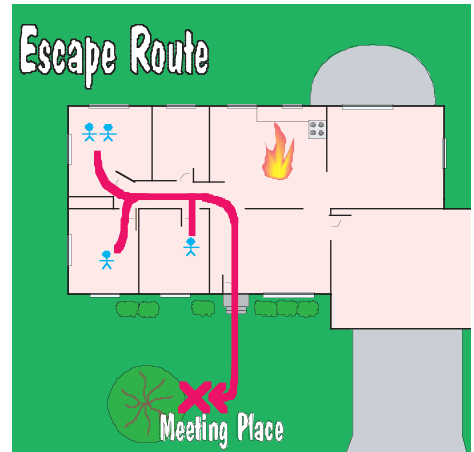
For more information about Ebola and the flu, visit www.cdc.gov.

KNOW WHAT YOUR CO DETECTOR IS TELLING YOU

The Halesite Fire Department responds to many calls for "CO Detector Activation". In most cases the problem is with the detector, not due to the presence of Carbon Monoxide.

A chirp at 30 or 60 second intervals means the battery needs to be replaced or the detector is malfunctioning. This does not warrant an emergency call to the fire department. A **constant** tone is a CO warning. If this **constant** tone sounds, move to fresh air and call the fire department.

EXIT DRILLS IN THE HOME



Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers are important parts of a Fire Safety Plan for your home. So is **E.D.I.T.H.** - Exit Drills In The Home. Every family member should know how to get out of the house in the event of a fire. Also plan a secondary escape route and make sure everyone knows where to meet once they are out - some place a safe distance from the house like a tree, mailbox, flagpole, etc. Notify the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's house and don't allow anyone to re-enter the building until the fire chief says it is safe to do so.

If you have any questions about E.D.I.T.H., call the firehouse. A fire department officer will contact you.

FOR FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY, DIAL

427-7250

FOR POLICE EMERGENCY DIAL 911



WHERE'S THE FIRE HYDRANT?

This is a photo from a snow storm last year. There is a fire hydrant in this picture. Can you see it? If you can't see it, neither can the firefighters who may need it to extinguish a fire at your house.

Please do your part to keep hydrants visible. Please shovel or sweep snow away from hydrants and do not leave trash, debris, or cars in front of them.

We hope we will not need to use them; but you want them to be clearly visible, if we do.

HOME FIRE FACTS

- Home fires peak in Dec. & Jan.
- Cooking is the primary cause
- Smoking is leading cause of fire deaths

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR FURNACE?

It's important that you have your furnace professionally inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Check the chimney for cracks or loose bricks. All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

If A PuffBack Occurs:

- Shut off the oil burner. The shut-off switch is often at the top of the basement stairs.
- Close the door to the basement to reduce the chance of smoke spreading throughout the house.
- Exit the house and call the fire dept. via cell phone or neighbor's phone.
- Advise the arriving firefighters about access to the basement.

IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE?

Every year we ask residents to make sure their house numbers are visible from the street. Yet, **every month** we respond to calls for help from residents who do not have visible house numbers. Use 4" reflective numbers and place them where they are not hidden by foliage, open doors, or vehicles. Help us to help you!



FROZEN WATER PIPES?

Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a UL-labeled device such as a hand-held dryer for thawing.

H.F.D.WEB SITE

For more safety tips, as well for news about Halesite Fire Department members, activities, events, and recruitment, visit our web site:

www.halesitefd.org

You can also sign up for e-mail messages and newsletters from the Halesite Fire Dept. Just enter your e-mail address at the lower right corner of our home page.