



HALESITE F. D. NEWS



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WATER THAT TREE!

Christmas trees account for 250 fires annually, resulting in 14 deaths, 26 injuries, and more than \$13.8 million in property damage. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters, or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem; dry trees are a different story.

(see tree fire demonstration at: http://fire.nist.gov/tree_fire.htm)

For comparative purposes, the NIST fire safety engineers selected a green Scotch pine, had it cut in their presence, had an additional two inches cut from the trunk's bottom, and placed the tree in a stand with at least a 7.6 liter water capacity. The researchers maintained the Scotch pine's water on a daily basis. A single match could not ignite the tree. A second attempt in which an electric current ignited an entire matchbook failed to fire the tree. Finally they applied an open flame to the tree using a propane torch. The branches ignited briefly, but self-extinguished when the researchers removed the torch from the branches. As NIST fire safety engineers say:

A WET TREE IS A SAFE TREE!

SAVE THE DATES

November

1 Holiday Food Drive Begins

December

9-11 Annual Christmas Tree Sale

11 Annual Holiday Party for Children in the Fire District

January

6 Blood Drive

February

5 Pancake Breakfast

IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE?

In a fire or medical emergency, seconds count. To avoid delaying responders, make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street both day and night. Use reflective numbers that are at least 4" high and place them where they are not hidden by foliage, open doors, or vehicles. In addition to a number on your house, a curbside number is also helpful to responders.

NEW WEB SITE

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

www.halesitefd.org

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

KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR



Please do your part to keep hydrants visible. We place winter flags on them to aid in locating them. 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.

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

In the U.S.A. each year, more than 1,500,000 winter fires cause \$3 billion in property loss, 1,900 deaths, and nearly 8,000 injuries with January being the peak month for fire deaths and injuries. Cooking is the leading cause of residential fires annually; but in winter, heating is the leading cause. Winter poses particular fire risks that warrant special precautions:

- Be sure wood stoves are installed properly.
- Have your furnace and chimney inspected annually.
- Make sure kerosene heaters exhaust properly to avoid CO build up, and be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- Choose a freshly cut Christmas tree, keep it watered, and keep the tree from blocking stairs or exits.
- Disconnect holiday decoration lights at bedtime and when unattended.
- Avoid using electric heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Keep all combustibles away from any heating system.
- For protection all year, install and maintain smoke and CO detectors on every level of your home.



**FOR FIRE OR MEDICAL
EMERGENCY, DIAL**

427-7250

**FOR POLICE EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

*“Carbon Monoxide
Suspected in
Three Deaths On Boat”*

*“Three on L.I. Hospitalized
for Carbon Monoxide
Poisoning”*

*“L.I. Family Suffers
CO Poisoning After Mom
Lights BBQ Grill Indoors”*

*“L.I. Elderly Couple
Killed By
Carbon Monoxide”*

These are recent headlines from nearby **carbon monoxide (CO)** incidents. Every year the Halesite F.D. warns residents about the dangers of carbon monoxide; and every year we respond to numerous CO emergency calls. Fortunately, most calls result from faulty detectors or detectors with batteries that need to be replaced.

CO is the “Silent Killer” because it cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted; and it causes nearly 500 deaths and 20,000 emergency department visits annually. The only way to know if you are being exposed to CO is with a CO detector. CO is a byproduct of incomplete combustion. Most common sources in the home are furnaces, water heaters, gas or wood-burning stoves, kitchen ranges, portable heaters, portable generators, and vehicles.

CO One Hour Exposure Chart

0 - 9 ppm (parts per million) CO:	no health risk; normal CO levels in air.
10-29 ppm CO:	headache, nausea caused by long term exposure.
30-35 ppm CO:	flu-like symptoms begin, especially among young and elderly. CO detectors may activate at this level.
36-99 ppm CO:	flu-like symptoms likely for all. Most CO detectors will activate in this range.
100+ ppm CO:	severe symptoms - confusion, intense headache, coma, death.

*Note: CO detector activation is dependent on both exposure level and length of time of exposure.
Effects will vary depending on sex, age, weight, and individual health issues.*

Because CO tends to follow warm, rising air, place a CO detector about five feet above the floor or on the ceiling outside each sleeping area. Detectors with digital displays are preferred, because they not only provide a reading of the CO level, they also display a low battery or error message. Test the detector monthly and replace batteries each spring and fall when we change from or to Daylight Saving Time. The shelf life of a detector (manufacture date is often shown on the detector) is from two to five years, so replace your detector according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Review the manufacturer’s instructions and know the different sounds your detector makes. A chirp at 30 or 60 second intervals means the battery needs to be replaced. A constant tone is a CO warning. If this tone sounds, move to fresh air and call the fire department.

In a fire or medical emergency, dial 427-7250 to contact the Halesite Fire Department