



# HALESITE F. D. NEWS



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## 2009 SWINE FLU - WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STAY HEALTHY

- Stay informed. The CDC website ([www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu)) will be updated regularly as information becomes available.
- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- Take actions to stay healthy:
  - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
  - Stay home if you get sick. The CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Follow public health advice about school closures, avoiding crowds, and other social distancing actions.
- Find healthy ways to deal with stress and anxiety.

*For more information,  
call 1-800-CDC-INFO.*



## FROZEN WATER PIPES?

**N**ever 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.

## KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR



**P**lease 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.



## GENERATOR SAFETY

**P**ortable generators can greatly reduce the impact of a power outage; however they represent a significant carbon monoxide (CO) hazard. In the final three months of 2006, 32 people died in the U.S. from CO poisoning associated with portable generators. Please exercise caution, when using one:

- Never use a generator indoors, including a basement or garage. **Opening windows and doors will not prevent CO build-up in the house.**
- Locate generators outside, away from windows, doors, and vents.
- Install and maintain CO detectors in your home.

CO cannot be seen or smelled. The amount of CO from a single portable generator is equivalent to hundreds of idling cars - **it can kill you and your family in minutes.**

## WINTER FIRE SAFETY

**I**n 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**

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## KNOW WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE

**P**lanning what to do in the case of a fire can make the difference between life and death:

**Practice two ways out** of every room in your home or office. **Designate a meeting place** - a mailbox, utility pole, etc. - located a safe distance from the fire where family members know to meet.

**Get out** as soon as you discover a fire; do not try to fight the fire or gather belongings. **Once out, stay out** until a fire chief says it is safe to return.

From a neighbor's house or cell phone, **call the Halesite Fire Department at 427-7250 to report the fire.**

**Keep your family together** away from the fire, and be ready to direct arriving firefighters.



### SAVE THE DATES

#### December

- 11-13 Annual Christmas Tree Sale
- 13 Annual Holiday Party for Children in the Fire District

#### January

- 8 Blood Drive

#### February

- 7 Pancake Breakfast

## HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR FURNACE?

**I**t'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 Puff Back 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.

## BE PREPARED FOR A BLACKOUT

**T**here are many causes of power outages: hurricanes, winter storms, utility blackouts, even local auto accidents involving power lines. Whatever the cause, there are some simple steps you can take to reduce the impact of a power outage:

- Keep a battery powered radio ready to help you stay informed about the loss of power.
- Have a standard telephone or charged cell phone available - not one that relies on power - so you can call emergency services when necessary.
- Have several flashlights and spare batteries available on each floor of your home or office.
- Keep a supply of blankets, water, food, and medications on hand.



### NEW WEB SITE

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

**[www.halesitefd.org](http://www.halesitefd.org)**